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April, 1813

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Belle Fontaine

3rd April 1813

Sir

In Obedience to orders received from the Honbl. Secretar of War, a Copy of which I have the honor to enclose you I have to request your Excellency will advice me relative to the Posts of Fort Osage and Madison & inform me wether it is your opinion those Posts should be maintained and kept up or to withdrawn with all the Army stores, and in case you should advice either or both should be continued, wether any Reinforcements would be necessary for their safety. Fort Osage is now garrisoned with about fifty one men, and Fort Madison with one Captain, two First Lieuft. one Second Lieuftenant and about one hundred Non Commissioned Officers Musicians and Privates including a Reinforcement started from this the 28th Ulto. Fort Massac was placed under the Control of Colonel Anderson a few days after I received the Enclosed Order

I am with great Respect Sir your obedt. Servant

Dl Bissell Colo

Comdg. District

His Excellency

Penn. Howard

Governor of the

Territory of

Missouri

St. Louis April 3rd. 1813

To His Excellency

Govr. Howard

Sir

Having returned to St. Louis I know it to be my duty to inform you of what I have done since my absence from this place in the Mississipi, to four Miles below rock river, -- I left Portage des Sioux the 12 february and arrived at fort Mason the 15th. where I met a few Sacks one by the Name of Manesencive this man informed me that a band of Courtorcilles,? had crossed salt river with horses they had stolen, a young sack meeting them stole one horse from them and give it, to his Chief Plew, the 16th I got some Merchandise from Mr§. Prior and delivered it to the Commander of the fort, to be given by him to the friends of that Indian Killed by our men in the Lines, I left fort Mason and arrived at the two rivers on the 18th here I met the Chief Plew who told me that he would return the horse, he also informed me that he new of two parties of Indians our enemies on the frontiers I left him the 21st. with eight Indians to Conduct me to fort Madison where I arrived on the 25th, I found there eight Miamis Indians who had held Council with the officer of the fort; I suppose your Excellency has had a Copy of their Speech, the 26 the Sacks arrived at the fort from the Ioway river, we had some talk with them, I left the fort and arrived at the Ioway river on the 28th where I found fifty lodges of Sacks.

The first March I held council with the Chiefs, Mancite and other, I was conducted by them to the fox Camp were I also had some talk with them this was on the second of March; I required of them to guide me to Prairie du Chien they refused, alledging that they would interrupt the good Understanding between themselves and the Sioux of Prairie du Chien and that the Sioux would probably discover their Intention of coming under

our protection, I therefore concluded by sending two runners to Praire du Chien with letters; on the 4th March I had a talk with some of the principal Chiefs after debating with them some time, they said that the British had sent them word to go and get Powder at Chicago and also if they did not declare open war against the Americans that they would set all the surrounding nations of Indians against them

I was also informed by the same Chief that the Sioux of the Interior had been on a visit to the Sioux of the Lakes with an intention to get them to Join and go to war against the Sacks and foxes, The Sioux of the lakes answered that this was not a time for red skins to fight one against the other but that it was time to declare war against the whites and to send them off their lands, The Indians sent as express by me returned, and said that they the Indians of Prairie du Chien forbid me going there, and told the Sack and foxes to mend what they were doing --

They then sent an express to turkey river, to their people then requiring them to come down, The 6th March I seen Mr. Lagotuie and Pristois at the Ioway river -- trading they told me that they held their goods from Mr. Lucas a son of Judge Lucas, Mr. Lagotuie observed that he had purchased a part of his goods from American Merchants at Mackinac -- The S the sack and foxes went for the Miamis that were at Pole Cat river, the Miamis begged of them to let them remain their some time and then they would Join the ; On the 10th an express come from the Kikapoux, and Potawatomies on the Illinois river telling them to come on to Chicago and get powder and ball that their father the British was impatient to see them the Indians asked me wether their american father would find fault with them if they were to go and get powder and ball I answered and told them that they must not go; and must not think of their British any more --

The Sacks and foxes then answered to the express and told them; My Brothers we will not go to war with any Nation we will decend below fort Madison and on a small piece of ground we will live in peace or try to do so, Untill we are attacked, we then will be obliged to defend ourselves, the 12th I see a Potawatomie, named, Na we acosee, this man told me that the Miamis that were on Pole Cat River were the same persons who Murdered the garison a Chicago and Plundered Peoria Nothing material untill the 22nd. March, when an expressed arrived from Prairie du Chien they said they had been there in the night and left it the same time, they seen Old Mc Roc he give t em three letters for us, but the letters were taken from the by a fox, this fox told them that h Kept those letters to hear some news from us, I learnt at the same time that letters I had written to Mr Biolvin never came to hand, I then determined to send an Indian to get the letters which had been taken by that express from Prairie du Chien, and concluded coming down, but finding the express not returned, I dispatched Mr. Ange to meet the express I had sent for those letters from Prairie du Chien with orders to come on as quick as possible and meet me here, -- Before I left the Indians they told me that they could not let me go before telling me the truth, they then said, we have received two pipes from the Sioux and other Nations, they want us to go and Join them and that when being assembled at Prairie du Chien we would then stay untill Dixon Rollet and Aird would be with them, that they had received from Dixon at Mackinac ten pieces strouding and the assortment, but Dixon then told them that he would go on to Quebec and see their great father and get one hundred pieces of strouding wit the assortment, and at the same time they must all get tother at Prairie du Chien, Untill he arrived there, which would be very early this spring; and then together they would make a decent on St. Louis and other places. The 27th. I was

at Fort Madison where we held Council, to which I refer your Excellency 20th. held a talk with the Flew, he says my Father. I have done what I told you I would do, I promised ou peace with my people, I have done so you will see that I am a man of my word, and that you will also Keep yours and help me when I deserve it and that you will restore us our trader at Fort Madison and give us what you have promised, I have my father put my Medal on the Neck of the young mans Brother that was Killed by your young men

This was to restore peace amongst us. I hope my father will have a heart like mine, So soon as I can I will send down the Chiefs and others and I will remain here untill they are all together below, then I will go and Join them . I left them and come down to Fort Mason, I would sujest that the Indian are afraid of the other Nations above the Mississipi will force them to declare war against the Americans they therefore want support from us, I also have been informed by the Indians that, one hundred men from **rock river** were coming on the Mississipi to do all the Mischief they could.

The Sacks came to Fort Mason to inform Lft Campbell that they were going to the river des Moin to stay there and that they would send their Canoes for the remainder of their people that were at the Ioway River.

I met a Mr. Gilbert on the 3rd Inst. who told me that the Indians had Killed a man on Buffaloe crick by the name of Capt. Jourdain

I remain your Excellency obedient Servant

Maurice Blondeau

Chillicothe April 3rd 1813

Dear Sir

Genl. Cass arived here on the evening of the 30th Ultimo, by whom I recd. recruiting orders &c which I having been making preperations to attend to, But have this morning recd. orders from Genl. Harrison to repair to the Rapids with as much expedition as possible. This being the case the recruiting service must suffer in the lower end of the state, as the system is not organized, nor any recruiting officers appointed. The Eleven thousand dollars which was put into my hands by Genl Cass, I have lodged in the Bank of Chillicothe. I shall direct that it shall be subject to the order of any person you may direct to receive it.

In the joint letter addressed to you by Genl Cass and myself, we were in great haste and omited recommending any person as Colonel from the lower end of the state, nor can I yet mention the name of any person. I intended seting out on the 5th Inst. for the purpose of nominating platoon officers for the purpose of commencing the recruiting business, and in hopes to find some person in the lower end of the state which would be popular, that I could recommend as Colonel But must now obey the orders of my superior.

In great haste I am very respectfully your

Duncan McArthur

[To Armstong]

Pittsburgh 3 April 1813

Sir

Captain H. Johnston of the 1. Regt Infy. having been several years Commandant & Military Agent at this post, It is with pleasure I bear test mony to the correctness of his department as a Gentleman & an officer, and to the Zeal which he discovered (occasionally under circumstances rather embarrassing) to promote the service in which he was en aged.

I am Sir respectfully Your Obedt. Servt.

George Stevenson

General Armstrong

Geo Town Aprl. 3rd 1813

Dear Sir

We have Recd your letter in which we are advised, That the Cashier of the Bank of Kentucky, had been directed to place to our Credit $30,000 Dollars in Treasury notes, Every exertion in our power shall be made in the different Banks or otherwise to use these Notes as Money, But as it is probable we shall in the Commencement of our attempts to meet with some difficulty and delay we must apprise you of the necessity of still drawing Bills upon the War department provided the want of funds should make it necessary, We have expereanced considerable difficulty in procuring funds from Bills of Exchange on Your department without a discount, we have never made a sacrifice except in one or two cases of about $20 As we expected to have been furnished with Money at this place we are extreamly happy to learn from Col. R. M. Johnson that you had stated to him that If we should be compelled to make a discount upon Bills, the Loss should not be the Contractors, but the loss of the U. States

The Directors of the Ba k of Kentucky upon our statement to them of your views are not willing to let us have Money unless we agree to pay the difference between the Treasury Notes Interest & the common Bank discount, which we refuse to do untill we hear from you on that subject

We are respectfully Your Mo Obdt Servt.

Ward & Taylor

NB We have drew severel Drafts on you which we trust you will honour.

W. T.

[To Armstrong]

[illegible]

Owing to a pressure of business, it [illegible] power to answer your communication of Yesterday [illegible] this Morning. As it respects Fort Madison, I never considered it a happy selection of Scite for [illegible] Madison either as it respects the Defence of [illegible] itself or its efficiency in affording Protection [illegible] the Frontier, had my Opinion been taken before we [illegible] hostility with the Indians, it certainly would [illegible] been in favor of its evacuation, but from a variety of considerations, arising from existing circumstances, [illegible] seem the abandonment of it unadvisable, were [illegible] take place at this time the measure could be [illegible] great Dexterity among the Indians by B. Agan [illegible] evidence of our inability to maintain it, and would [illegible] those who are now hostile, and possibly [illegible] the wavering to take part against us; further, since the removal of the Villagers by Capt Craig [illegible] the Florias, we have no place where Persons can [illegible] be sent, or kept in the Enemies Country, [illegible] collect information of their views and movements, [illegible] Fort Madison in this respect its utility [illegible] by circumstances [illegible] in the [illegible] of the War, in addition to these considerations, [illegible] resulting from an opinion [illegible]

[illegible] Madison [illegible] its utility [illegible]
[illegible] by circumstances [illegible] in the Progress
[illegible], in addition [illegible] considerations, there
[illegible] possibly confi[illegible]
[illegible] difficulties with the
[illegible] minate without an imposing
[illegible] as far at least, as the Quiscons [illegible]
[illegible] a Garrison commanding the entrance of
[illegible] into the Mississippi, in the prosecution
[illegible] of this kind Fort Madison would afford
[illegible] which will at once occur to you, in
[illegible] from any view I am able to take of this Subject,
[illegible] Opinion this Post ought to be maintained, if
[illegible] are possessed, the number of Men now there
[illegible] for the place; stated in your Letter is in
[illegible] entirely equal to its defence against any assault
[illegible] alone if well supplied, but if a B. force
[illegible] with Artillery should cooperate I fear it
[illegible] unless the Garrison is strengthened
[illegible] not usual, nor necessary to repel attacks
[illegible] Indians, how far it is susceptible of such
[illegible] rs, you can better Judge than myself, from
[illegible] prior knowledge of its condition. The forti-
[illegible] or Boats you intend to employ there I think
[illegible] full, the Garrison can cooperate with them in
[illegible] an attempt of the Enemy to descend the

St Louis, [illegible] 1813

[illegible]

[illegible]ing to a pressure of Business, it was [illegible] [illegible] against the Settlements below, and in [illegible] [illegible] serious attack of the Post on the land side, the Command in them can be drawn with facility to its [illegible], it is to be regretted that Fort Madison had not been built higher up or lower down on the R[illegible], [illegible] believe a much more eligible military Post [illegible] not [illegible] is to be found in either direction, but it [illegible] not be advised in the present state of things [illegible] there was a greater protecting force during its [illegible] than can be spared. I believe either from [illegible] means in your power, or the resources of the [illegible]ory, consistently with the safety of our [illegible] as to Fort Osage receiving its utility [illegible] in respect to the defence of the Frontier I [illegible] no hesitation in advising its early evacuation, [illegible] Missouri Indians have so far been deemed friendly [illegible] neutral, and if they were hostile it is too [illegible] to check their inroads, because the Osage [illegible] [illegible]ering nation would not necessarily have to [illegible] [illegible] descent upon our frontier, by the 1st Article [illegible] between the U States and the Osa[illegible] [illegible] is stated to have been built [illegible] [illegible] protection of which they are [illegible] [illegible] Sc. Art. there is an expres[illegible]

[illegible] and if [illegible] their [illegible] the [illegible] portion would not [illegible] have [illegible] [illegible] upon our frontier, by the 1st [illegible] treaty between the U States and the Osage [illegible] Fort is stated to have been built [illegible] to the protection of which they are to be [illegible] by the 2d. Art. there is an express co[illegible] [illegible] of the U States to keep a [illegible] [illegible] Articles for Indian use at [illegible] the [illegible] it is to be presuged that some arrangement [illegible] made with the Chiefs at Washington last [illegible] with those treaty stipulations or this would have [illegible] taken into view in the letters of the S. of War, [illegible] [illegible] and myself, but lest those engagements by [illegible] possibility may have escaped his recollection, I [illegible] write to the Agent now among the Osage, to endeavor to effect an arrangement absolving at least informality, [illegible] U States from those parts of their Agreement, but from the letters of the Secretary I do not think this is prescribed to you or myself in deciding the question he has submitted to our co sideration, the result of which seems intended to decide upon its continuance or abandonment, I have given you my opinion [illegible] the topics presented me in your communication of yesterday which tho' hastily expressed, have been [illegible] formed, I will meet you at the Fort [illegible] [illegible] on Thursday next at 12 OClock respecting the establishment spoken of in our late conversation, [illegible]

[illegible] from the letters of the Secretary I [illegible]
this is prescribed to you [illegible] myself in [illegible]
question he has submitted to our co sid[illegible]
result of which seems intended to decide [illegible]
continuance or abandonment, I have given you [illegible]
upon the topics presented me in your communic[illegible]
yesterday which tho' hastily expressed, have [illegible]
deliberately formed, I will meet you at the [illegible]
Du Sieux on Thursday next at 12 OClock respecting [illegible]
establishment spoken of in our late conversation, [illegible]
anything occur to prevent me you shall be notified [illegible]
it before your departure, if the detachments you
destine for that place could be there by that time it
could be desirable, as the establishment there will
not only give much protection to that exposed vicinity
but confidence to the Country below, in addition to the
reasons assigned for evacuating F Osage I would add
that should the hostile Indians determine to cut off
its supplies the enterprise would be unsuccessfull,
unless Escorts were sent greater than could be afforded
compatibly with other Objects without more Men are
sent to this Country.

I am respectfully your Humble Servt.

Signed Benjn. Howard

To Daniel Bissell

St Louis April 4th 1813

Sir

owing to a pressure of business it was not in my power to answer your communication of yesterday before this morning, as it respects Fort Madison I never considered it a happy selection of scite for a Garrison either as it respects the defance of the post itself or its efficiency in affording protection to the frontiers had my opinion been taken before we were in hostility with the Indians it certainly would have been in favour of its evacuation; but from a variety of considerations arrising from existing circumstances I deem the abandonment of that post unadvisable were it to take place at this time, the measure would be employed with great dexterity among the Indians by the British agents as evidence of our inability to maintain it and would embolden those who are now hostile, and possibly decide the wavering to take part against us further since the removal of the Villages by Capt. Craig from Peorias we have no place where persons can be sent or Kept in the enimies Country to Collect information of their Views and movements except Fort Madison in this respect its utility is increased by circumstances accruing in the progress of the war in addition to these considerations there is another resulting from an opinion possibly confined to myself which is that our difficulties with the Indians will not terminate without an emposing campaign carried as far at least as the Ouisconsin in a direction between Michegan & Mississipi, and the erection of a garison Commanding the entrance of that river into the Mississipi; in the procecution of a Captain of that kind Fort Madison would afford many facilities which will at once occur to you, in short from any view I am able to take of this subject, I am of opinion that this post ought to be maintained if the means are possessed the number of men now there and destined for the place which you state in your letter in my opinion is entirely equal

to its defence against any assault of Indians alone if well supplied but If any British force possessed with artilery should cooperate, I fear it would be insufficient unless the Garison is strengthened in a way nor usual nor necessary against attacks made solely by Indians how far it is susceptible of such improvement you can Judge better than Myself from your superior Knowledge of its condition

The fortified Boat you intend to employ there I think highly usefull the Garison can cooperate with it in arresting any attempt of the enemy to pass down the river against the settlements below, and in the event of a serious attack of the Post on the land side, the command in the boat can be drawn with facility to its support It is to be regretted that Fort Madison had not been built higher up or lower down the river as I believe a much more eligible military position not distant is to be found in either direction, but it could not be advised in the present state of things unless there was a greater protecting force during its erection than can be now commanded I believe from the means in your power or the resources of the territory consistently with the safety of our Settlements, as to Fort Osage viewing its utility solely in respect to the defence of the frontier I have no hesitation in advising its early evacuation. The Missouri Indians have so far have been deemed friendly at least nutral and if they were hostile it is too high up to check their inroads because the Osage the Neighbouring Indians would not necessarily have to pass it in a decent upon our frontier, By the 1st article of the treaty between the U States and the Osage Indians a Fort is stated to have been built at Fire Prairie to the protection of which they are to be entitelled, by the 2nd article there is an express covenant on the part of the U. States to keep a permant supply of suitable articles for Indian use at that post it is to be presumed that some arrangement

was made last summer at Washington between the Govt and the chiefs dispensing with those treatys stipulations or this would have been taken into view in the letters of the secretary of war to you and myself but lest those engagements by possibilitys may have escaped his recollection I shall write to the agent now among the osage to endeavour to effect an arrangement absolving at least informally the U. S. from that part of their agreement, but from the letter of the Secretary I do not think this is presented to you or myself in deciding the question which he has submitted to our consideration the result of which seems intended to decide its continuance or evacuation; I have given you my opinions upon the Topics presented to me in your communication of yesterday which tho hastily expressed have been deliberately formed, I will meet you at the portage des sioux on thursday next at 12 oclock, respecting the establishment spoken of in our late conversation should any thing occur to prevent me you shall be notified of it before your departure if the detachment you destine for that point could be there by that time it would be desirable as the establishment at that place will not only give much protection to that exposed vicinity but confidence to the Country below.

I am respectfully your humble servant

B. Howard

P.S. in adition to the reasons assigned for the abandonment of Fort Osage I would add that should the Mississipi Indians determine to cut off supplies for it the enterprise would be succesful unless escorts were sent greater than could be afforded consistently with the safety of the country, without more means are thrown within its limits.

[No addressee]

Report of August LeRoche and Louis Chevalier -- St. Louis 4th April 1813 --

We left this place in Jany. last, and crossed the Mississippi at Portege de Sioux, we then took the Peraries towards the Illinois River, seeing many fired a head of us, and fearfull of falling in with the Kicapoos, we changed our course, and struck the Illinois River at the Grand Isle, 60 Miles below the Peorias, where we fell in with three Potawatimies, who were much surprised to see us, and was very near fireing on us, saying that they thought we were Americans. Those Indians told us that we did right to leave the Piraries and come down to the River, as we would have fallen in with the Kicapooos who would have certainly killed us, as they pay no respect to any whiteman since their relations was Killed by Govr. Edwards, those Potawatimies took us to their camp on the River de Sheeshequeen 30 Miles below Peorias, we were here informed that an Englishman was on his way from Detroit to St. Josephs with ten Kegs of gunpowder, those Indians sent a young [man] with us as a guide to their Fort or Fortification, that they have built on the River Au Burace, which falls into the Illinois River 60 miles above Peorias, when we arrived at that place we were astonished to find such a Fortification built by Indians; This Fort or Fortifixation is built on a point of a hill with five long blockhouses with portholes at different distances to fire through, if attacked; those blockhouses are about twenty feet long and fifteen or 16 feet wide around the blockhouses trees are cut down, and by means of thick punchons a very compleat breastwork is made, and portholes at certain distances to fire through, in front of this Fort or Fortification is a large marsh, and the River au Burau runs behind it, this place was built last winter, after the Kicapoos seen the peaces of the people who went up to Peorias last december to bring their Cattle away. At this Fortification all the Indians of the Illinois River are, Kicapoos and Potawatimies, and from the different alarms that they have had all winter they have not been able to hunt, and are now in a state of starvation. We wished much to go up to Chicago and from thence on to Mill[illeg.] but they Kicapoos said we were spies employed by the Americans

and that an army would come and cut them off as soon as we would return to this place. There being a great deal of snow and our horses tired out, nd finding the Kicapoos was so Suspicious of us we thought best to remain at their Fort, altho they Potawatimies did not suspect us by an[y] means. Gomo and others told us that the gunpowder from Detroit was arrived at the Mouth of St. Joseph's River and that the Black Patridge had already received two Kegs for his share, that those ten Kegs of gunpowder are intended as presents to the Potawatimies, Kicapoos, Winebagoes Poisovoing Sakies & Foxes, and that the[y] are not common Kegs, but contain about 100 lb. each from the Size the[y] are rep esented to us --

The Mainpoque came home to Fox River last fall that he brought two Kegs of gunpowder with him, and started from Detroit with eighty horses, that he had stole from different parts but got only twenty home with him, they rest having given out on the road, about the 15th of last month the Mainpoque's son arrived at the above mentioned Fort, with a talk from his Father to Gomo, and other Chiefs telling them that the British had sent for him (the Mainpoque) to go on immediately to Detroit, that the Indians did not Know how to make war, that it was not proper to go and kill a man, or a Woman &c. but to allow the Americans to come into their country by which means they would be able to Kill a great many that those was the words of the British, that the Americans had Killed many Shawnoes and Delawars in an engagement on the Wabash last winter, and that the Americans had committed many cruelties on the Indian prisoners, by tying an Indian round the neck with a rope and a woman round the waist and throwing them across a horse, and carried of in that manner, that the Americans was ti red of fighting with the Prophet, that he was allways to many for the Americans, and they were oblidged to acknowledge the superiority of the Prophet, that the Americans had enquired for the Mainpoque and wished to fight him, that he had accepted the Challenge, and would first go to Detroit for Cannon

then return to and take Fort Wayne -- The Indians observed that the Americans was allways on the hunt of Indians (meaning I suppose the mounted Rangers) that they would also go towards Sagamon River, on horseback and see if they could not fall in with some of the American horsemen, that the war was only going to commence this Summer, that nothing as yet had been done -- Mittilase[?] told us that should we converse with the Americans to tell them, that the Indians would be glad to see our old friends, that formerly lived at the Peorias, but did not want them to bring any gunpowder, as the Indians were plentifully Supplied with that article, but a little Tobacco and Corn would be acceptable; That there is every appearance that the Indians will plant Corn in the same Villages the did last year, that latterly the held a Council, the purport of which was, to ask the British to send them provisions &c. in a vessell to Chicago to serve them for One Years as the are now in a state of starvation, a horse sells from two to four Indian bags of corn each, that a Man a Woman and a Child actually died with hunger this last winter. A Potawatimie Indian named the White hair said that he was on the Mississippi where there was about fifty lodges of Sakies encamped at the mouth of the Ihowais River and some british traders, that the Sakies employed One Boisbois a trader to write a letter to the British at Detroit and that One Logouthrie was the interpreter, which letter was given to him (White hair) to take on to detroit, and that he would be well paid for his trouble by the British; also that a number of Sakies was going to the mouth of St. Joseph's River to get Gunpowder from the Englishman who was to bring it from detroit, he the White hair also said that the British wishes to know the Indian who Killed Captain Wells at Chicago in August last, as they say they will pay him well for Killing Capt Wells, and he the White hair says, it was him who Killed Captain Wells, and expects to receive a large amount of Goods from the British when he gets to Detroit -- That seven days ago, we saw three Sakies that came from the

Sakie Camp on the Mississippi, who said that the Sakies, Foxes, and Iowais, were divided, part for war with the U. States and part for peace, that the White Pidgeon's Son (a Potawatimie) told them, that if they did not join the British, that they would be considered as Americans, and that the British and other Indians would make war against them equally as if they were Americans. That all the Indians were invited by the British to go to Detroit, to receive Clothing & Provisions &c. That it was Kicapoos who Killed Young on Kaskaskia River, the party consisted of five or six, and a party headed by little Deer Killed two men some where on the Kaskaskia River where the got some money and many papers, that two of the Little Deers party remained behind, and killed another man who was making sugar, near the Saline, but that they would not Kill the women that we did not hear of any prisoners They had taken -- That two traders Buisson and Lemoin wintered at Chicago with goods &c. that those traders had got of from the Indians two women and One child, that was taken prisoner at Chicago last August. We seen two of Lemoines men who informed that Dickson went to Lower Canada last fall, and we were told by the Indians that he (Dickson) was to be at Prarie du Chien in last month, after the engagement between the Americans and Indians on the Wabash last winter the Prophet with the Shawanoes went to Detroit, but the Winebagoes & Kicapoos did not follow the Prophet to Detroit, but are still on the Wabash

[This was enclosed in a letter, Howard to Armstrong, dated, April 5, 1813, covering letter not copied as it was too illegible.]

Vincennes April the 5th 1813

Sir

the Situation of my Private affairs renders it inconvenient for me to Continue in the ranging Service Longer. I therefore hope you will take as my resignation as Captain of a Company of rangers in this Service of the United States.

In quitting the Service Sir I must return you my thanks for your friendly Attention to me while I had the honor to Serve under your Command, & hope you may Long Continue to Command in the Country where I may be a Soldier

I remain Sir Very Respectfully Your Obt. Servt.

Paren. S. Beckes

Colo. William Russell

7th U. S. Rangers

Copy St. Louis April 6th 1813

Sir,

I have sent dispatches to you at the Osage Towns by express, Should it not meet you on the way, nor find you there, you will stop the Indians you may have along and come on here yourself as soon as possible. The object of my dispatches to the Villages is to prevent your bringing the Indians down to be fixed on our frontier. I wrote you also upon the subject of evacuating fort Osage

I am respectfully &c

(Sigd) Benjn. Howard

Majr. P. Chouteau

Empower the Building Blockhouses & to furnishing emplements of agriculture as it may appear advisable hereafter

Authorise a Deduction from the % Osage annuities when there is Sufficient proof of their ######## having stolen or plundered, and the property after being demanded is not given up

If we make use of the Osage in war the appointments of young Chotous is adviseable

Copy St. Louis April 6th. 1813.

Sir,

It has been my opinion for some time that fort osage ought to be evacuated as the troops can be much more useful on our frontier, the Secretary of War as written me on this subject, I have recommended its evacuation. But as one object in placing it there was for the Convenience of the great & little osage Indians and they remain friendly, I wish them to be Satisfied with its removal and to hear a proof of their willingness to effect this I send you three Copies of an arrangment which I wish signed by the principal chiefs & warriors, and I do hereby Specially authorise you to sign it on the part of the United States. When it is signed by yourself and them, one Copy you will leave with them the remaining two bring to me; I feel extremely anxious that this arrangment should be quickly made, and I hope all fair means will be used by you to effect it. When it is signed you will have subscribing Witnesses. Your exertions are relied on in this business

I am respectfully &c.

(Sigd* Benjn. Howard

Majr. P. Chouteau

Osage Towns.

///

Vincennes 7th April 1813

Dear Sir

Accerding to your information on the subject of ran ers for this Territory Col. Bigger has taken great pains and has incurred considerable expence in raising a company and has succeeded. The company is full and have elected their officers all ##### meritorious citizens. Col. Bigger is elected captain and has come on to this place to tender the services of the company (through Genl Gibson now acting govr.) to the president but has been refused because Genl. Gibson has promised Mr. Payton from Kentucky that if he can raise a company he will be accepted and under the impression that Payton will raise a company Col. Bigger who is now ready for service is rejected there being only a vacancy for one — Why conditional promises should be made to exclude actual applicants or why a resident should be postponed to a Kentuckian I can hardly tell. There is certainly as much to be expected from Col. Bigger as from any Kentuckian of them all and without detracting from the merit of Capt Payton I might say more. Honor, interest, and the attachment he must be supposed to have to the place of his residence all combine to impl him to diligence and activity: and in fact, I believe nothing but the love of his country could have induced him to quit his domestic employments and give up the society of his family for rough and toilsome exercises of the champ de mars. If you can render any assistance in this matter it will be an acceptable service to all your friends in this country

The Col. has determined to send on his application immediately to the president & your interest perhaps may be useful to him. I need not prescribe the tract you had best pursue, but will only suggest that no time is to be lost as the other company will in all probability be offered ver soon —

With sentiments of respect I have the honour to be, Sir Your obt. Sert.

Jas Winslow[?]

Honble Jonathan Jennings Esquire

Portage des Sioux April 6. 1815

Sir

The people of Buffalo settlement having at last consented to move down to the settlements below at once sugests the propriety of a different line of operation for the defence of our frontier from that which was found necessary to take them within its scope while they remained, owing to this circumstance I have to recommend that an establishment be made at Cape au Grais on the most eligible situation in its Vicinity altho the continuance of Fort Mason may be still of use yet if you have not the means of continuing it and establishing a Post at Cape au Grais I feel no hesitation in recommending its immediate evacuation and the application of the means thereby afforded to effect the object at Cape au Grais should your determination require a conveyance of orders to the officer commanding at Fort Mason, I will afford it by means of some mounted troops I have in the Vicinity of this place if the evacuation of Fort Mason be necessary to effect the object I have mentioned your intimation to that effect will produce instructions from me to the commanding officer of the Rangers to cooperate in hastening its evacuation and giving safety to the public property in its transportation if you will instruct Left. Campbell to state the probable time he can decend to Cape au Grais, I will endeavour to throw mounted troops into that neighbourhood in time to reconnoitre the Country round while a Fortification is erecting and a point in the mean time may be chosen Since I wrote you in respect to Fort Mason & Fort Osage I am afraid upon a point which ought to have been well considered the late Secretary of war did not think at the time he wrote you and no [illegible] steps have been taken by me to remedy a possible omission of this; upon reflection I must advise that that post be now evacuated untill the arrangements with the Osage which I have sent on are made the result of my proposition to them will be known shortly still every measure preparatory to a relinquishment of the garrison can go on

Howard Co

B Howard

[To Armstrong]

40

Copy of a Letter from His Excellency, Governor
to Colonel Daniel Bissell Detroit

Portage [illegible]

8th. April 1813 --

Since I wrote you in respect to Fort [illegible] Fort Gage I am afraid upon a point which [illegible] been well considered the late Secretary of [illegible] did not think at the time he wrote you and myself [illegible] have been taken by me to remedy a possible omission [illegible] him. Upon Reflection I must advise that, that [illegible] not evacuated until the arrangement with [illegible] Gage, which I have sent on, is made, the result of my proposition to them will be known shortly still every necessary preparation to a relinquishment of the Garrison can go on --

I am Respectfully Your Humble Servt

Signed Benjn. Howard

Head Quarters Fort amanda

on the Auglaise River

9th April 4 OClock A.M.

Dear Sir.

Altho I have reason to believe that the powers formerly given to me to call upon the Executives of the adjacent States & Territories for Detachments of Militia is considered by the Secretary of War as being annuled -- yet such is my view of the critical situation of our affairs in this Country that I am induced to request your Excellency to take such measures as you may judge most effectual & speedy to send me -- a reinforcement of at least fifteen hundred men. The season is scarcely sufficiently advanced to afford wild food for horses, but as we have a considerable quantity of forage at some of the advanced posts I must request you to dispatch immediately the Regt. of Mounted Riflemen commanded by the Honbl. R. M. Johnson or such part of it as may be raised without waiting for the Infantry -- should the Government not think proper to authorize the employment of the latter -- you will receive Notice of it before they can have arrived at the General Rendezvous as I have already written on the Subject & I am persuaded that neither your Excellency nor the officers & men who may be called out will regret the trouble you will have on this occasion should it even prove ultimately to produce no advantage.

From the information received yesterday it is very evident that the enemy intend## to attack the post at the Miami Rapids -- they have been apprised of the reduced state of the troops there & calculate upon an easy conquest -- I have been obliged to dispatch for its protection the Squadron of Dragoons & have now with me about 300 men which is all that I could possibly take from the protection of the forts on this line. Indeed one of them is left to the protection of the Friendly Indians with only a sergeant & 3 men of ours -- I shall embark in one hour

in a boat & peragues & calculate on reaching the Rapids tomorrow Night, I am informed by Major Stoddard who commands at Camp Meigs that the Indians are in force on the Rivers between Fort Winchester & the former --

Without a very considerable addition to my present force it will be impossible to defend the extensive line of weak posts on this frontier & maintain that at the Rapids. The enemy have a single point only to defend their forces are concentrated -- they command the lake & can take their troops to any point they think proper to attack, with great facility -- our movements on the contrary are necessarily laborious & tardy & not Knowing on which of our numerous & vulnerable points the storm is to fall it is necessary upon every Military principle that our force should be treble theirs -- at present it is inferior --

I have the honor to be with great Respect sir yr obt H Stv.

(Signed) W. H. Harrison

His Excellency

Isaac Shelby Esqr.

Governor of Kentucky

St. Louis 10th April 1813

Sir

Being appointed Sub Agent of Indian Affairs for the post of Peoria in the Illinois River, I think it my duty to state to you the reason that I am not at present at that place, as also the importance of an establishment being made there, or they people who formerly resided there to be encouraged to return back and build up their Villages; they whole of the houses being burned down, excepting two that belongs to two British traders, Messrs. Rousson and Lemoine. The information I collected at that place before and after the commencement of the War, was great. I had got every thing in such a train, that I drew information from Makinaw, Detroit, St. Joseph Rivers, Chicago, Millwakee and Green Bay and many other places, and nothing could stir in the Vicinity of these places, among the Indians without its coming to my Knowledge, which information so collected, was occasionally transmitted by me to they officer of government in this Country; by which means many lives was saved, but more particularly in the month of September last, when upwards of four hundred Indians was equiping themselves to come down on the frontiers of this, and the frontiers of Illinois Territory, but Governor Howards Letters to me arrived at Peorias two or three days before the arrival of this large body from the upper parts of Illinois River, by which means my answers to Govr. Howard gave him and Govr. Edwards time, to put the frontiers of both Territories, in a state of defence by which means, the whole party of Indians was most compleatly foiled, they doing no other mischief, than stealing a few horses, and robbing a house or two; not being able to take home one scalp, but on the contrary lost one of their warriors, a thing hardly known in Indian warfare. Indians allways profess the greatest friendship untill the moment arrives that the mean to make an

attack, so being a war, which they allways do, of as great a force as they possibly can collect, always supposing to take their enemies unawares, as they certainly would have done in the case above alluded too, had it not been for the information that Govr. Howard# received from us at Peoria. After the return of this great party, I thought it prudent to leave down to this place my most valuable effects and to return to Peorias immediately, which I did, but during my absence the Illinois and Micapoo Indians robbed the whole Village of Peoria, of every article they could carry away; driving they poor people away out of their houses, men, women & children naked, and obliged to embark on board of canoes, and abandon the whole, and to crown our distress still more, two Boats commanded by Cap. Craig of Shawanoe town, got up to Peorias a few days before I did, and took on board of his boats the remainder of our property (the greatest part we never got nor do we ever expect to get it) and ourselves prisoners amounting to Forty two persons, Men, Women, & Children, obliging us to abandon our Houses, Cattle, Corn and Wheat, for no other reason than because some Indians fired on they boats, all which provisions say 150 'at least) head of horn Cattle, besides hogs, and Corn, was all destroyed during the last winter, by the Indians, four houses and four barns two of which contained Wheat, was burned down by Craigs men, before we left the Peorias, when we were taken prisoners we were disarmed, and descending the Illinois, he would not give us a single fusee to kill a few ducks, and when arrived and discharged on the bank of the Mississippi 18 Miles above this place, part only of our arms were given up to us, the remainder were detained to the great loss of the owners, not to mention the abuse we received from Craig and his men at different times: I had prevailed on some people who were about to leave the Peorias to remain there 'prior to our being made prisoners by Craig# and I was to return from this place to Peorias [illegible]

or two after every thing was settled, we were all made prisoners, & our property destroyed, and it was impossible for me to return since which time I have been at this place & regret much our [illegible] obliged to abandon our situation at Peorias. Peorias is certainly the most important place in all the Indian Country, as the intercourse with the Indians at that place is so great, that Indians going to, and coming from Detroit, generally call to rest themselves and get a little tobacco &c. for their journey by which means we allways had more ly intelligence from that place and am sure, was I now there, I would be able to collect as much information as formerly, and no doubt by that means be able to frusterate the designs of they enemies of this country, but as I have already observed, it is impossible for me to make a stand at Peorias alone, but if there was a possibility, of three or four families being allowed to go up to that place, I would proceed and go up with them, and run any risk that might happen. Many of the people who for only resided at Peorias wish much to return, but the fear of being hindred by Government, and the great want of the common necessaries of life, oblidges them to employ all their time at hard labour, to perceive a scanty subsistence for their families. If Government would give them the least assistance almost the whole of them would return and I think many more of the same Nation (French) would also go up, and the Peorias would be in a little time more respectable than ever it was. Two men recently arrived from that country, informs me, that the Potawatimies wish much that their old friends (as they style them) would return and build up the Peorias.

I have the honor to be your most Obedt and very humble Servt

Thomas Forsyth

The Honourable/ Secretary of War/ City/ Washington

Chilicothe Apl. 10th. 1813

Sir

Havein stated to you that I believed Genl McArthur would promote the views of the executive in receiving men in this state as soon if not sooner than any other person I cannot help but mention my surprise at his being ordered away at the moment when he had commenced the recruiting service & as I think with a fair prospect of success. I certainly have no intention of interfering in a matter which does not concern me but having as I thought fully understood your views & instructions in this quarter -- I felt desirous the should be carried into effect. I will only add I am fully convinced that Genl McArthurs absnece will parelize in great measure the recruiting service in this quarter. I wrote you a note five days since on the subject of the frontier of this state. I am confirmed in the opinion I then gave by the alarm created[?] in consequence of the late cruel murders by the Indians on the Ohio. Will you excuse my solicitude on this subject and let me request you will put at least one company of Rangers on our frontier as soon as they can be raised and with a view to loose as little time as possible give me leave to give you the Name of George Stockdon (as a Captain of such compy) who to my own knowledge is well qualified for such an appointment. The subalterns may be named hereafter. I am informed Zanesville is to be the rendezvous for the 2 Regts to be raised in this state. I think it my duty to tell you that Troops can be supplied on the Sioto for 1/3 less to the public and the distance only 74 miles between the two Oplaces

Very respectfully

T Worthington

P.S. Should it be deemed proper to make the appt. I have mentio ed I will be responsible to you for its proprity. T W

[To Armstrong]

Cleaveland Ohio

April 11th. 1813

Sir

I have met, at this place, a Mr Jones, a gentleman of respectability, recently dri en from Detroit -- he informs me that the Enemy are making great exertions to collect and Indian force from the North West -- that many persons have been sent, by Colo. Proctor, into the country of the Northern & N Western tribes — among whom are Dixson, a Scotch Merchant — Burnet, a half Indian -- Robert Livingston, late of New Hampshire — Druillard, late Indian interpreter at Malden -- San crant, a french trader -- and Kinsey, formerly sutler at the American post of Chicago -- all men of influence among the indians. It is expected they will be able to assemble, by the first of July, a force of upwards of three thousand The Enemy will also be able to avail himself of the services of about fifteen hundred Engagers or Vouageurs, (i.e. Canada Boatmen,) now in the service of the North West company -- they are expected at Detroit by the 20th. June.

Mr. Jones informs me the British are closely engaged, at Malden, in building vessels for the lake -- they have one calculated to carry eighteen Guns ready for launching -- the Keel of another, to be of equal force, is laid — ' they have three or four Gun boats on the stocks.

The ice has disappeared from this part of the lake -- & serious apprehensions are entertained for the safety of this place. The large quantity of provisions, fo age & stores, collected here, invite depradation — And the Enemy, if he possesses a particle of enterprize, will certainly visit us.

Boat building progresses rapidly.

I am, Sir, very respectfully Yr. Obt. Servt.

Th. J. Jessup

Capt. 7th In.

Marietta Apl 11 1813

Sir

I hoped that the Command of the 8th U. S military District would have been assigned to Br Gen McArthur in Consequence of the System to be established by the U S General Orders of the 19th of March last.

For that Command so far as relates to Ohio I Know Gen. McArthur is peculiarly qualified -- nor would it prevent his Superintendance of the recruiting Service in the western Part of Ohio --

I take the Liberty of making to you these Suggestions, it having been reported that Gen Harrison had order'd him to the Rapids.

I have the Honor to be respectfully Yr. Ob. St.

Return J Meigs

Hon. The Secy at war

Butte Fontaine

12th. April 1813.

Sir,

The 31st Ultimo Governor Howard arrived at Saint Louis, I immediately waited on him, and also [illegible] him, on the Subject of evacuating Forts [illegible] and Madison, the Enclosures are copies of his [illegible] and the Extract of a Letter I received from him the [illegible] at Portage De Sieux, and agreeably to his [illegible] I shall endeavor to maintain Fort Madison, and [illegible] the necessary arrangement is made with the [illegible] Indians, spoke of in the Governors letter, I will evacuate that Post with all the Army Stores.

Having advised with his Excellency on the Subject of the Defence of this much exposed frontier, we have agreed, that it was necessary that a Post ought to be established near Portage De Sieu x, and the 8th inst [illegible] met at that place, and fixed on a Site, which completely Commands the River, and I have left Captain [illegible] there, with a Subaltern and fifty one men, with orders to build a strong Block House, and left with him a fortifyed Boat, and a Piece of Ordnance, and his Excellency has Detached a Company of Militia [illegible] place, with another fortifyed Boat, with Orders to build a Battery or Block House, on an Island [illegible], where Captain Desha is stationed, where [illegible] another piece of Cannon, which Positions [illegible] well manned, successfully defend the Pass of

[illegible] under Fort [illegible] S. [illegible] 8th [illegible]
[illegible] of that place, and [illegible] on a [illegible], which
[illegible] Commands the River, and I have left Captain
[illegible], with a Subaltern and fifty one men, with
[illegible] to build a strong Block House, and
left with him a fortifyed Boat, and a Piece of Ordnance,
and his Excellency has Detached a Company of Militia
to that place, with another fortifyed Boat, with Orders
to build a Battery or Block House, on an Island a little
below, where Captain Desha is stationed, where we shall
fix another piece of Cannon, which Positions I trust
will if well manned, successfully defend the Pass of
the River, the Governor has also mounted Rifle
men, now at the Portage, which Reconnoitre and scout the
Country daily, which I trust will be able to rive us
such information, as will prevent our enemy surprising
us.

Fort Mason, a small station which was built, and
where I have had one of my Subaltern Officers, and
about twenty men, stationed the last fourteen Months,
with the Rangers, the Governor has thought best to
have lower down, somewhere near Capua Grey, or Quivre,
about twenty miles above the Illinois River, which
we have agreed immediately to do, the few Settlements
above that, are to move in, the particulars of all of
which, his Excellency will advise you of --

I hope it may not be thought Arrogant in me, in
fact I feel it my Duty, to say the means of

[illegible] information, as will prevent our enemy surprising

Fort Mason, a small station which was built, and where I have had one of my Subaltern Officers, and about twenty men, stationed the last fourteen Months, with the Rangers, the Governor has thought best to move lower down, somewhere near Canua Grey, or Quivre, about twenty miles above the Illinois River, which we have agreed immediately to do, the few Settlements above that, are to move in, the particulars of all of which, his Excellency will advise you of --

I hope it may not be thought Arrogant in me, in fact I feel it my Duty, to say the means of Defence on this frontier, I think quite inadequate, to the protection necessary, for the Property and Population of the Country, every information which can be got agrees that a Combination of the Northern Indians is most certain, for the purpose of harrassing the Frontiers of Missouri and Illinois Territories, That British Agents have been during the Winter and still are engaged amongst the Indians, on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and at Prairie de Chien and Chicago is certain

I am with great Respect Sir Your Obdt Servt.

D Bissell Colo.

Commdg District

The Honble.

Secy of War

Washington City

Aug. 17

Elvirade

Randolph County

Illinois Terty

April 12. 1813

Sir

Within a few days past several confidential agents that we have had in different parts of the Indian country for a considerable time have returned bringing with them a great deal of important information. Their reports are lengthy and minute but I have only time to extract from them the following particulars.

The Indians who formerly lived about Peoria and on this side of it soon after our expedition against them last fall removed to Bureau river (which enters the Illinois 60 miles above Peoria) where they erected a strong fortification consisting of five long block houses, around which trees are cut down and thick puncheons so arranged as to make a complete breastwork with port holes judiciously disposed. It is situated at the point of a hill -- a large Marsh in front -- the river in the rear of it and approachable only with any kind of facility on one side where the passage is narrow -- Two of our agents remained at this place several weeks and only left it fifteen days ago. They were there informed that ten barrels of powder sent by the British had arrived at the southern extremity of Lake Michigan as a present to the Pottowottomies, Kickapoos Winnebagoes Fallsavoines Sauks & Foxes, and that the Black Patridge (a distinguished Pottowottomie Chief* had received two barrels for his share.

That after the battle of Massasinawa the Prophet & his party left the Wabash, went to Detroit and have not returned. That Main Loque stated that the American had enquired after him and wished to

fight him, that he had accepted the challenge but would first go to Detroit for cannon -- That the indians generally stated that the war was only going to commence this summer -- that they would come down and surprize our mounted men who were constantly hunting for them. They had latterly held a council, the object of which was to ask the british to send them provisions in a vessel to Chicago to last them for 12 months.

Those agents also met with some Sauks from the Missisippi by whom they were informed that the Sauks Foxes and Ioways were divided part being for war with the U. S. and part for peace. Tant the White Pigions son 'a Pottowottomie) had been among them with -- that the British were ready to supply them with ammunition clothing & provisions. that if they would not unite in the war they would be considered as Americans and that other Indians & the British would commence war upon them.

Those agents also saw White Hair 'a Pottowottomie chief on his return from the Sauk Camps on the Missisippi by whom they were informed that the Sauks had employed one Brisbois a trader to write a letter for them to the British at Detroit. that Lagotree another trader was the interpreter, that he (White Hair) was the bearer of said letter and was on his way to Detroit whither he had been invited to receive presents as a reward for having killed Captn. Wells last year at Chicago. They were also informed that Dickson went to Lower Canada last fall and was expected to arrive at Praire de Chien last month. That it was probable that the Indians would make corn where they made it last year. That the party that has infested our frontier for some time past were principally Kickapoos headed by a chief called the Little Bear

That these Indians are very much enraged [illegible] are [illegible] [illegible] mischief they can.

Just about the time [illegible] left Bureau river the Indians [illegible] sent out runners to collect all their warriors -- a[illegible] it is [illegible] their intention may be to strike some blow before they separate.

Mr Blondeau sub agent to the Sauks and Foxes has been in the Indian Country on the Mississippi from the 14 of Feb y till the first of this month when he returned to St Louis -- About the 4th of March he was informed by the Sauks and Foxes that the British had sent for them to go to Chicago to get powder &c. and threatened them that if they would not declare open war against the Americans they (the British) would set all the surrounding nations of Indians upon them -- That the Sioux declared it was time to make war upon the Americans and drive them off their lands.

That they had received two pipes from the Sioux & others accompanied with talks in which they were informed that the Indians at Praire de Chien had received from Dickson at Macanac ten pieces of strouding and a proportionate quantity of other articles. that they were to collect together at the Praire there wait his arrival which would be early in the spring and then they were altogether to make a descent upon St Louis and other places in all which the Sauks and Foxes were invited to cooperate -- and they informed Mr Blondeau that they were afraid the nations above would force them to declare war against the Americans, and requested our support.

On the 10th March another deputation from the Kickapoos and Pottowottomies of Illinoisn river arrived among them inviting them to go to Chicago to get ammunition &c and informing them that their British

father was impatient to see them --

He was also informed a few days before his arrival at St Louis that a war party from Rock river was on its way to attack the Mississippi settlements & do all the mischief they could.

By every other account that has been received for a long time past it appears that all the Indians West of Lake Michigan and on the Illinoisn and Mississippi rivers (except the Sauks & Foxes) have joined the hostile confederacy.

Of the Sauks and Foxes it is admitted that a part is for war and a part for peace. But I give it as my decided opinion that they will all soon be against us.

They are threatened by the British and Indians with war if they do not join them -- while every other measure used to engage them -- Operated upon as they must be by the double motive of reward and personal safety we cannot expect them to remain firm in our interest while we neither assume a warlike attitude to inspire them with fear nor carry on intercourse and trade with them to conciliate their affections. In fact we are doing no one thing calculated to counteract the exertions of the British and therefore I conclude those exertions cannot fail of eventual success.

Supposing those Indians to be hostile it is not safe to calculate their going to Malden -- All accounts that have been received since last fall concur in proving their intention to attack this quarter. Those accounts have been so numerous & uniform and so far so well corroborated that it begins I think to be time to believe them.

Going from the Mississippi to Malden they must go either by Macanac or Chicago, the distance itself would make an insuperable

objection to their going Wether in any large body and leaving their women & children exposed, and indeed if such were their intention they would soon change it if an army were to march in their own country.

Our frontier continues to be very much harrassed by the Savages. We have no men here but those who have been raised in the territory except a small party with a Lieut at Ft Russel. I have not heard from or seen Colo Russel, I have the command of the volunteers that I have raised and have as hard a duty as I believe ever fell to the lott of any man. I have not seen my family for seven months — and I fear I have little prospect of that happiness unless the territory shortly gets some aid.

I have called in the Kaskaskia Indians it being dangerous both to them & the people of the Ty to permit them to support themselves by hunting and I am consequently compelled to support them at the public expence.

I have the honor to be Very respectfully Sir Yr Mo Obdt St

Ninian Edwards

The Honble.
John Armstrong
Secy of War
Washington City.

P.S. Since writing the above I have recd the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr Roe, a worthy man, & good agent, who has been upwards of 30 years interpreter to the Sioux. the letter is decisive. N.E.

Cleaveland Ohio

12th. Apl. 1813

8 O'Clock P.M.

Sir,

A report has just reached us, of a skirmish having taken place, on friday last, near the rapids, between a small party of Indians & a detacht. from the Garrison -- Some of the Indians were Killed— the survivers dispersed. I give the report as I recd. it without being able to vouch for its correctness -- and am, Sir, Yr. Obt. Servt.

Th. J. Jessup

Capt. 7th. In

The Hon. John Armstrong

Secy. of War --

Franklinton 12th. April 1813

Sir

Four men have arived at Fort Meigs, who state that the British and their Indian Allies are making preparation to attack that post. Genl. Harrison would leave St. Mary's or Amanda on the 9th and descend by water with a fleet of Boats & perogues laden with stores and provisions -- the efficient force at F Meigs with the info mation they possess of the Enemies intentions forbids a belief that they will be able to reduce that post, even should the Commander in Chief fail in ariving there -- But my Good Sir I have very great fears for upper and lower Sandusky; for I am deeply impressed with a belief that the real object of the Enemy is to attack one or both those posts, which they can taken in a few Hours -- there not being more than about 40 or 50 effective men at the upper, the force at the lower is unknown to me but apprehend equally inconsiderable* [*I am this moment informed there are 200 men at lower Sandusky --]

I have thought it my duty to give you this information, and to suggest the expediency of your hastening to Upper Sandusky, leaving such officer as you may select to follow you with such volunteers as can be raised -- There is no officer of experience at Sandusky -- your presence there in my opinion is all important -- Those posts (upper and lower Sandusky) are more than vulnerable, and the Enemy can approach them now the Lake is clear of Ice with the utmost facility --

I am at this moment much engaged sending off some fixed amunition to F. Finley for two Companies of K Militia now at F. McArthur under the Command of Majr. James Johnston --

I am Sir, respectfully your ob. st.

James Morrison

P.SS. I have thought the above information of sufficient importance to Justify my finding an Express to you -- who is instructed to ride day

light perhaps the Enemy may attack Cleveland where we have considerabl
stores of grain & provisions -- I am satisfied their object is not F Meigs --

Brigader Genl.

Duncan McArthur

Chillicothe

Lex. (K) 13th. April 1813

D Sir

In consequance of what passed in your Departmt. with me, Dr. Ridgley, the Contractor for supplying the troops of the U. States the ensuing year, in K., is about to draw for $8000. in advance, to enable him to make those preparations requisite to ensure the certainty of the Supply. Independent of what was stated to me at your office as to the practice of making advances, and as to what would be done, in this particular case, the necessity of public assistance in these large contracts is quite obvious; and I hope therefore he will meet with no disappointment in the payment of his drafts. My sole motive for givin you the trouble of perusing this letter is, that the Dr. is my neighbour & particular friend, and one in whose integrity I have the most unbounded confidence.

Yrs

H. Clay

[To Armstrong]

Great Crossing Scott County K. April 13th 1813

Dear Sir,

The Redgement of Mounted Volunteers authorized by you will be ready to take the field by the 10th of May, about which time I shall leave home for the City of Washington unless I should reveive marching orders through you or some intimation that the Redgt. will certainly be called into service in a short time. The corps will be a most effectual one, & nothing has been better calculated to keep unbroken the public spirit, than the raising a Redgt of men of talents, property, public spirit & who could not serve their country in any other way. It was for active offensive operations that I requested to organize the Corps & it is for vigorous invading purposes that the men have volunteered their services — For the end of protection & for defense I know provision has been made with a more permanent & less expensive force near the places to guard & defend —

In the event of a vigorous expedition against Maldin Detroit &c or in case of an expedition to the Ouisconsin the Mounted Redgt would be better than three thousand men on foot, taking into view the men & the nature of the force. In case of such events alone would I be justified in being absent from even an extra session of Congress, which is worse then useless — nor would the Redgement be anxious to engage in any other kind of service; Indeed I am certain you intended them for no other pupposes in which case, when they shall be employed if beofre I go to the Extra Session, or after I have even arrived at the City, I s ould most certainly join them without delay. I have given you this view, that you may befriend me with an answer to this the first mail after this is recd by you. It is therefore indispensible for me to know whether such force will be assigned to general Harrison as to authorise a campaign into the Enimies Country &c &c If so I presume no doubt will exist as to the propriety of calling for the Mounted Redgement. If this campaign should be practicable & determined on, when is it probable that it will open. If such a campaign should be considered impracticable or improper

on account of expence or any other consideration, then I presume Genl. Harrison will act on the defensive & we shall not be wanted, except in case of some unforseen emergency -- in which case the Redgt will always be ready in my absence to march under the command of Lt. Col. James Johnson my Brother of this place -- I have also written to Genl. Harrison on this subje.t & if any communication shall be made which ought not to be divulged it reamins with me. The Corps does not wish to march without your express authority, as they might not be paid for their services -- I feel much anxiety in getting a letter by the first of May or early in it.

Your friend & sevt

Rh. M. Johnson

[To Armstrong]

Sept 13

Vincennes, he. 13th April, 1813.

Sir,

The contractors boat previous to my arrival here left this for[t] fort Harrison, she was attacked on her way up and beaten back, with the loss of two soldiers, Killed and four wounded, I proceed immediately to have two boats fortifyed as proof against small arm's, and sent them up again, I also sent up a detachment of ranger's to attack on their rear should they again attack our boats, when the boats arrived near the same place, the Indian's shewed themselves in force to the boats at the distance of three quarters of a mile, the boats moved up in order, When the Indian's Commenced a fire, in return a fire was kept up by our men and forced their way through the danger; However the contractor's boat by some means took the allarm, and contrary to the orders of the Commanding officer, who was in the other boat teturned, the water was spread so compleatly over the bottom's that the ranger's could not act: however the one boat forced up to the garrison and carried on the necessary relief. I have recently sent up another boat well fortifyed, and also a detachment of the U. States rangers, on boath sides the Wabash river, would thank them to make another attack on our boat, the rangers are to keep a proper distance from the river, so as to be able to hear the attack should it commence. Lieut. Martin L. Hawkins, of ye. U States Infy. commanded the boats, and acquited himself much to my satisfaction, he is an active young officer, and deserves well of his country --

Capt. Percy[?] is waiting here, to be informed whether or not the honoratle the Secretary of war has received his resignation, forwarded to him by myse lf last fall -- Enclosed I forward on to you. Capt. P. Backes [is] resignation foryour acceptance, with nominations to officer the company should t e government instruct me to have them reinlisted.

Lieut. Joseph Brown stands as first, in the company and is well calculated to command a company in any service, and am very anxious for his

promotion, believing it would add much to the benefit of said Service. Samuel Little, also to be first Lieut. who at present fills the place of Second Lieut. James Stewart 2d. Lieut. and if three Lieuts, James S. Petty to fill the place of 3d. Lieut, and Piere Leplant Ensign --

I am sorry to trouble you with this business at### the present, but Sir it is important to this part of the country, and I believe several more will shortly resign in the old company's --

I have the honor to be with high respect your obdt. Servt --

W. Russell Colo

7th & District Commandant.

[To Armstrong]

Caskaskia

Illinois Territory

April 14. 1813

Sir

Last night I received a letter from Colo. Bond informing me that you had requested that I should raise three companies of rangers for this territory. I have already raised four companies supposing that that many at least would have been accepted. I had the honor to communicate to you the tender of service by Capt. James M. Moore[?] Capt. Samuel Whiteside and Captain Jacob Short & their subalterns & companies and I presume from Colo Bonds letter that the commissions will shortly arrive. These three companies are accepted by me as far as I had any authority to act.

Captain McHenry has now a company of mounted men in service who also tender their services for twelve months -- but I suppose from the arrangement that has taken place they cannot be accepted and therefore I shall decline forwarding their tender.

Mr Hempstead who arrived here last night informs me that Colo. Overlook is recommended as a Majr. to take command of the rangers. If that appointment should be made I shall regret it very much on the public account for I know he is unqualified for it in every point of view and I pledge myself officially or otherwise to prove to you that he is unworthy of it. In my expedition last year I gave him the command of a Battallion -- upon the march his conduct was so reprehensible, in violating positive orders that he was arrested by Colo Russel -- In our attack upon the principal Town at the head of Peoria Lake -- he was ordered to gain the left flank of the enemy and for that purpose to leave the Town on his left -- he disregarded the whole arrangement and -- and left his battallion and when I ordered him to form it, his reply was

[illegible] with his — [illegible] things [illegible]

[illegible] to prove more to you. I am no enemy to this [illegible] — everyone upon the expedition knew & felt his improper [illegible] such circumstances I think his promotion injustice to others. I [illegible] not intend to recommend any man unless called on for that purpose, I feel it my duty to remonstrate as respectfully as possible against this appointment and will now recommend another whose merits and [illegible] of every description are superior. Majr Benjamin Stephenson last [illegible] commanded the companies of Captains Moore Whiteside & Short who have tendered their services, he was recommended by them — he discharged his duty well, now commands & has for some time past commanded those companies, he has had considerable experience, is an excellent disciplinarian [illegible] a most worthy brave & respectable man, & is in every respect well acquainted with all the details of his duty — No one can deny his superior qualifications, every one who has been in service with me will testify to them — and I have no hesitation in saying the officers & soldiers would prefer him. I do not object to the one appointment for the sake of obtaining the other — for I have never been applied to recommend Stephenson — nor does he expect it of me — but objecting as I do from motives of public good to the appointment of one, I have felt it my duty to name another against whom no possible objection ~~could~~ can or will be made by anyone. Stepehnson is the brother of the late member of Congress of that name from Virga. — he is sherriff of this county and my brigade Majr. and without his assistance I do not know how I shd have hitherto been able to manage the militia.

I have done my duty — and am Very respectfully Sir Yr Mo Obdt St

Ninian Edwards

Chillicothe April 14th 1813

Dear Sir,

From the very frank and candid manner, in which I was received, the few moments, I had the honor of waiting on you, has induced me to address you, with perhaps, too little reserve. I trust however, that my motives cannot be impeached, which I hope will plead my apology.

I mentioned in my last, that I was ordered to the Maimi Rapids by Genl Harrison who is now on his way to that place, but says he cannot remain there longer than he can get an United States Brigr. Genl to take the command. I purpose seting out for that post tomorrow unless my orders are countermanded. Since I recd. recruiting instructions, I have used every exertion to forward that business.

Genl. Cass informed me that the government contemplated exchanging all prisoners of war, who would again engge in the service of the U.S. consequently, several of those Captains and Subalterns which I have appointed, and who are now recruiting men, under the act of Jany 29th. are of those officers who were surrendered at Detroit. A list of their names you will receive inclosed. In a letter lately received from Genl. James Taylor, dated ######## at the City; he expresses doubts as to the exchange of any of the prisoners surrendered at Detroit. As both the character of the government and of individuals, may be considered deeply interested in this question I beg sir, that you will lose no time in giving me correct information on the subject, and say if you please how far we may go on with the appointments and enlistments of those surrendered at Detroit.

I Some time since took the liberty to mention my apprehentions with respect to our military stores on the frontier, particularly those at the Sanduskies. I now inclose you a letter which I this moment received by express from Major Morrison. I shall endeavour to raise some mounted volunteers to go to Sandusky for a few weeks — but this is so busy a season

and the waters so very high that I doubt very much of success.

There is as yet no information recd. on the subject of Clothing for the 26th Regt., no copy of the contract for the state of Ohio, nor is there any regulations made for the supply of the recruits, Whilst on the subject I beg leave to assure you sir, that the principal place of rendezvous for the 26th Regt. would be much more convenient at Chillicothe, or Urbana than at Zanesville, as the former places are within the district of country where it is contemplated to raise said regiment, whilst the latter place is not within 40 or 50 miles of any part of it. there is also abundant supplies of provision already collected on the Scioto and Miami whilst Muskingum will scarcely afford supplies for the 27th Regt.

I shall leave Lieutl Col. Lucas here to attend to the recruiting service in my absense, with directions to pay out money to the recruiting officers, as the service may require

Any instructions which may be to him at this place, will be forwarded immediately

Dear sir, I am very respectfully yours

Duncan McArthur

The Hon. John Armstrong

Secretary of war

Apl 15

Post Marked April 15, 1813:

No. 49. Head Quarters N. W. Army

Camp Meigs (Miami Rapids)

Sir

I arrived here on the morning of the 12th. Inst., having decended the Auglaize and Miami Rivers with all the Troops that I durst take from the Forts in that direction. Major Stoddard who commanded here for some days previously to my arrival informed me that he had communicated to the Adjt. General some recent information he had received respecting the designs of the enemy upon this post. I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the accounts he had received, indeed they are coroborated by a number of circumstances.

I found on my arrival here that Genl. Leftwitch had done little or nothing toward completing the defenses of the post -- Major Stoddart had however employed himself very actively after the Command devolved upon him -- and since my arrival the whole of the Troops have been engaged in finishing the old works and erecting new ones amongst the latter are an earthen Parapet (nearly completed) round the whole Camp and several New Sod Batteries -- in addition to those which were laid down in the plan which I had the honor to forward. A Grand Traverse across the whole Camp and a few additional Counter Guards will render all the efforts of the enemy unavailing. I pledge my self to defend it to the last extreamity. To day or to morrow I shall be reinforced by a part of the Kentucky Troops. The whole must be considerably advanced and will shortly join me. As the enemy are known to have several parties of Indians out for the purpose of intercepting the Mail and may very probably succeed altho' it is guarded by a Detachment of Dragoons, I shall wait for a safer opertunity, which will occur in a few days to communicate some further information. When the Law for raising 12 months volunteers was in force I authorised a Mr. McFarland to raise a

company of Artillery having been furnished with blank commissions for that purpose. He had recruited Thirty Men before the law was repealed and having expended a good deal of money and Manifested much Zeal for the service I promised him a Captaincy in one of the New Regiments. I shall be gratified to have this promise fulfilled. I believe him to be worthy of the appointment.

I have received no Letter from you# later than the 17th ultimo

I have the honor to be with respect Sir yr. Hb. Servt.

Willm Henry Harrison

Honb. John Armstrong Esq.

Secty of War

Chilicothe April 16th 1813

Sir

I was favoured with your letter of 7th inst. and thank you for the information it contains. The company of Rangers lately dismissed are generally my neighbours and I had formed a very different opinion of the from that given by genl Harrison. The Capt. is a Brigadier Genl in the Militia and lives about a mile and one half from me [illegible] and is one of the oldest settlers in the country and much respected. He requests me to send you a copy of his discharge. You say "To him (Gen H) is committed the defence of your frontier -- If his own posts are maintained you will be secure" This does not follow. If you will cast your eye on the map of the state you will see that the line of posts in the direction of the rapids from our frontiers are not calculated to defend it from savage depredation and that the whole country from Laronies westwardly to Vincennes is entirely exposed. I am persuaded too that you will agree with me that garrisons where the troops perform only garrison duty are poor safe guards to a frontier from indian depredation. I took the liberty of stating to you in the letter I wrote you on that subject a few days before I left the City the Kind of defence which in my opinion unites safety and economy.

I regret much the present state of things you will be informed before this reaches you of the apperhensions of invasion by the British & indians up the Sandusky. The object said to be the supplies collected at that river. A heavy draft has taken place — on the militia of this part of the country at the very moment they are engaged putting in their spring crops. I am aware that you have your hands full & will not state many things which perhaps you know already. If you do not you ought I shall see you soon & can then tell you -- Will you do me the favour to say whether Colo James Dunlap will or will not be appd a major in the Regt of Rangers? I have once or twice been nigh asking the command of the frontier -- so much do I feel

on the subject I learn the recruiting goes on well. With much es[illegible]

respect

T Worthington

[To Armstrong]

No. 50 Head Quarters Camp Meigs

17 17th April 1813

Sir

I musr eg you to believe that I would not disobey any order of yours unless I was sure that my doing so would meet your Approbation when you should be informed of all the circumstances that produced such disobedience. Nothing can be more proper than the regulations contained in your Letter of the [blank space] ulto. on the subject of calling out the Militia and Yet such was my view of the Critical Situation of our affairs in this quarter that I have been obliged to accept of companies from the State of Ohio that do not consain more than Forty Men Indeed there is scarcely one with more than half the compliment As soon however as I can get them together and consult Govr. Meigs they shall be consolidated. I have the honor to enclose a copy of my Letter to Govr Shelby of the 9th. Inst. Having written to you before on the subject of calling out those Troops -- There will be time enough to instruct the Governor -- should it be determined that they are not to be employed -- before they can be put in Motion

The Enemy have not Yet made thier appearance but from the information received through the Wyandotts of Sandusky they are collecting a large force for the attack of this or some other of our posts

John S. Wills Esqr. Judge Advocate to the army will set out tomorrow for Franklinton -- I have mentioned some particulars to him, which I did not wish to commit to paper -- and he will have the honor to communicate them by Letter from that place or Upper Sandusky

When I arrived here I was informed by Major Stoddard that he had written to the Adjt. Genl. and given him all the intelligence which he had received of the Movements and intentions of the Enemy, I have since learnt however that he forgot to mention that the British had lately launched at Malden a Vessell carrying Eighteen Guns, which was completly

equipped and ready for a Voyage and that an other of the Same Size was nearly ready to be launched.

The difficulty of procuring proper persons for Scouts (Spies as they are called in the Western Country)and the very exorbitant price which they demand has made it necessary to employ some of the friendly Indians for that purpose. I have now with me about Thirty and have promised them fifty Cents pr. day. Altho there is no Law authorising this I intended to pay them out of the fund which Government has always put at my disposal for Extra presents and which yearly amounts to a much larger Sum than will be given them. The Agent Mr. Johnson will have directions to draw for thier compensation in this way. If there were no other reasons for the Employment of the friendly Indians the confidence in thier fidility which it gives to our own people upon the frontiers makes it absolutely necessary, I have been under very great Apprehentions that some scoundrels in the Neibhgourhood of Piqua would fall upon the Delawares.

A few of our people & Twenty Indians are now out in the direction of the River Raisen for the purpose of taking a prisoner to gain information.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect Yr. Ob Sert.

Willm Henry Harrison

Honl John Armstrong Esqr

Secty of War

Lexington Apl 17th. 1813

Sir

Agreeable to the act of Congress under which I derived my appointment, I have with the advice of Majrs. Trigg & [illegible] proceeded to appoint the Captns. ' Subalterns and ordered them to their recruiting stations agreeable to instructions received from the Adjutant Genl.

presuming as no other officers has been allotted to Kentucky but Lieut. Colo. Butler Majrs. Trigg & Shiley that they where to be attached to the 28th Reg Infantry -- I have accordingly laid off to each Majr. his recruiting district -- Colo. Butler has not as yet reported himself to me nor do I know whether he accepts his appointment

Anxious to see my Regt. completed I could not wait longer for Lt. Col. Butler, but flatter myself that no appointment made by me will be displeasing to him, but on the contrary will doubtless meet his perfect approbation & that of my country --

Our success in recruiting has commenced extremly flattering; tho' injured much by Colo. R. Johnstons proposition to give a Dollar p day for four Months horse men -- Whe[illegible] mine Cavalry I could in four weeks be in perfect readiness to march to any point ordered. such is the great partiality of the Kentuckians for that Service. I find it extremly difficult in this country now to procure side arms Cloths &c for my officers as there is none here to be purchased. I have not as yet been able to sell a Bill on your dept. without much loss -- And therefore have not drawn on you as yet having private funds of my own sufficient as yet to defray all expences, but suppose shall in the course of this week be compelled to draw Shall the recruiting service proceed as rapidly as I expect

With respect your Obt. Sert.

Thos. Deyr Owings

Colo. 28th. Regt. Infantry

The Honbl./ John Armstrong/ Secy. of War.

Zanesville April 18th 1813.

Sir,

From information recd through various channels there is reason to apprehend an attack is meditated by the enemy upon some part of our Territory. Probably upon Fort Meigs, Upper Sandusky or Cleaveland. The quantity of publick property deposited at the two latter places and the defenceless situation, in which they at present are induces us to believe that the expected blow will fall upon one of them. The Governor is now here and upon the requisition of Gen. Harrison is ordering some Militia companies to Sandusky, Should however the enemy contemplate an attack upon Fort Meigs, they will unquestionably in the first instance throw their Indians in its rear and intercept all communication between Gen.. Harrison and the settled parts of the state. In that event it would be impracticable for Gen. Harrison to communicate other information of his situation or orders for reinforcements Although I should have no doubt of the course to be pursued both by Gen. McArthur and myself and should hasten to the scene of action with what forces could be raised, yet your instructions upon that subject would relieve me from some anxiety. The season of the year has arrived, when the Indians can carry on their operations without inconvenience to themselves, and when their horses can be supported in the woods. We are to expect they will make irruptions into our settlements The Lake is nearly navigable. I understand that publick property to a very large amount is deposited at Cleaveland. By a sudden descend the British might destroy it before there were any possibility of procuring forces adeaute to its protection.

I am aware, sir, that the multifarious details which require your attention render it almost improper to introduce these subjects. But

the probability, that Gen. Harrison will not be able to communicate freely with the state, and my being left without any powers but those derived from my appointment must furnish my apology. It is better to provide for contingencies, which may not happen than that they should meet us unexpectedly and find us unprepared.

There is every probability, that the Regiments assigned to this state will be enabled to raised the greater part of their number within a short period. It will be much facilitate the service if the men are permitted to remain within the District, in which they are raised, until the Companies are nearly filled.

The recruiting business is not conducted in the ordinary manner. The appointment of the officers is conditional And in addition to this stiumlus, the Militia Regiments are mustered in succession, that direct appeals may be made to the zeal and patriotism of our Citizens. But it would aud greatly were to our success were the arms and clothing, the drums and fifes here and were we permitted to forward them to the different recruiting districts. I rec'd. from the Paymaster of the Army $8000 for bounties and premiums and from the Account $3000 for Contingencies. I request that I may be permitted to pay over to the Comdg. officer of the 27th Regiment this money and that his receipt may exonerate me from that charge. It is impossible for me personally to attend to the expenditure of the money. Unless I continue to visit the different parts of the State I am apprehensive the recruiting business would not proceed with as much expedition as it now does.

I recommend Edward B Jackson as a young man well qualified to discharge the duties of Surgeon's Mate for the 27th Regt He has been a tour of duty in that capacity, and has returned with the esteem

of those with whom he has acted

Very respectfully, sir, I have the honour to be yr obt servt

Lew Cass

Frankfort April 18th 1813.

Sir,

I had the honour of addressing a letter to you on the 20th Ulto. in which I stated the course which had been adopted by the Legislature of this state to reinforce General Harrison after the disaster at the river Raison, had he attempted a descent upon Canada, as was expected; I also inclosed you the law and resolution of the Legislature on that subject, I also informed you in that Letter that Genl. Harrison had made a requisition on this State for 1500 infantry for the defence of the fro tier posts & stores which had accumulated at the head of the line before he abandoned the l te Campaign, And that I had in consequence thereof Ordered fifteen hundred men under the command of Brigadier General Green Clay to rendezvous on the 29th Ulto. and to proceed to General Harrisons head Quarters without dela . This Brigade marched from George Town about the first of this month, and I doubt not, are at or near their point of destination by this time.

I now consider it my duty to communi ate to you for the information of the President of the United States, that I received a letter of the 9th Inst. from General Harrison; written from Amanda on the Auglaize, in which he represents the frontier posts in a perilous situation, since the discharge of the Virginia and Pennsylvania Brigades which were under his command: and contains a further requisition on me for at least fifteen hundred men to be immediately sent to his Aid from this State.

I have in consequence thereof issued my Orders for the two remaining regiments consisting of about 1500 men, of the detachment Organized under the law of this State before mentioned, to rendezvous on the 2nd day of May at George Town, and to proceed thence to join General Harrison with all disptach. Of the vi w of General Harrison, and his reasons for this step he has no doubt informed you at large. -- But as I am unacquainted with the powers Confided to General Harrison, particul rly as I have lately heard them Called

in question, and as I would not order one man from the State into any Service that was not strictly conformable to the wishes of the President, I must request that you will be pleased to lay the subject immediately before him for his approbation, and in the event of his disapproving of the march of the aforesaid detachment, that you will afford me the earliest information thereof, that their march may be countermanded before they pass the limits of the State.

I beg leave again to Suggest to the president the very great advantages that would result from putting a stop to the intercourse between the Northern and Southern Indians. Thatcannot be effected by any other means in my opinion that by establishing a post at or near the mouth of the Ohio; their Common Pass way in going to and fro. Even should we be able to keep the Southern Indians at Peace as a nation Yet there can be no doubt but that their enterprising young men, allured by the prospect of fame and plunder will slip across the Country and join their red brethren in the North. It has been well ascertained that several of the Creeks and other Southern Indians were in the Action of the 22d January at the river Raison and their success there will entice many more if they are not checked. It will certainly be much easier to erect such a post while we are at peace with the Southern Indians, than to await their breaking out. And much I fear they can not long be kept in peace, every account from the south Western frontier of this State tends to show great apprehensions in that quarter; and in fact so jealous have they become of the Southern Indians, that I am apprehensive Bloodshed will be the consequence of the first Casual meeting with them in arms on our lines. A Garrison at or near the mouth of the Ohio with some active men to range around it, would in my opinion prove effectual -- Their crossing places are here Confined to a narrow bound

I have the Honour to be very respectfully Your Mo Obt.

Isaac Shelby

P.S. If the President shall approve of the number[?] of the present detachment, it will be expedient and expected, that the troops receive the usual advance of at least one months pay, before they leave the state or at Cincinnatti at farthest -- As no arrangement have been made by Gnl Harrison on that subject to my knowledge & as he cannot now be consulted, it is thought[?] that the necessary orders should be given by you.

The Honble

The Secretary at War

Kaskaskia

Illinois Territory

April 2d 1813

Sir

The danger to which this territory is exposed and the necessity of assistance (unless it be preferred by the govt to give it up) is no longer a matter of opinion or conjecture. The Indians continue to be very troublesome. It is I presume unnecessary to detail their late atrocities -- They waylayed the mail carrier# & his guard on the road from this place to the Ohio, on Sunday last -- and the lives of those men were probably saved by a heavy rain which fell suddenly and induced them to ride at full speed past where the Indians lay. Yesterday morning the same party made an attempt upon the house of a Mr Cox where the mail carrier lodged at which time I believe one of our men killed an Indn. I have two detachments of militia in pursuit of them, but it is doubtfull whether they can be successfull# owing to very high waters.

The Indians appear to have made incursions into every part of our frontier. The mail I think must entirely stop. If you should have any communications to make to me, It would be best to forward duplicates and send by Russelsville (Ky) as well as by the usual rout.

I have the honor to be Very respectfully Sir Yr Mo Obdt St.

Ninian Edwards

The Honble

John Armstrong

Secy of War

Washington City

apr. 21

No. 51. Head Quarters Camp Meigs

21st. April 1813

Sir

I had the honor last evening to receive your favor of the 4th Inst. The Party which was sent to the River Raisen return'd with Three Frenchman from that Settlement. The information given by the latter, is that the enemy are still urging on thier preparations for the attack of this place. The transports for the troops and Artillery were preparing. The Prophet and his Brother had arrived at the River Raisen with a reinforcement of Indian Warriors, and a still larger was expected on the day after from the South Side of Lake Michigan. Three Artillery officers had been sent to fix on the Sites for thier Batteries on the Bank of the River opposite to this place. The Prisoners captured on the 7th Inst had been taken in and had informed the Enemy of the Strength of this post. But a Salute which had been fired upon my arrival here was heard -- the intention known and a belief entertained that I had brought a large reinforcement. The Indians began to waver. Thier employers were stimulating them by every means in thier power. To The Prophet & his followers assurances were given that the Michigan Territory should be thiers. The Indians objected to the plan of attack proposed by the British which was to detach the Militia and the Indians to intercept our retreat, whilst the Regular Troops were employed in annoying us from the opposite Side of the River. The attack on this Post would now be disirable and I only fear that the may abandon the Idea for one more easily executed. My fears for the Safety of Fort Wayne, are removed for the present, as all the accounts agree as to the point of the exertions making by the enemy to draw to Malden every Indian from the Country between the Wabash and Lake Michigan

The plan for future operations as laid down in Your Letter of the 4th is no doubt the best that could have been devised in the event of the promised Naval success and a prosperous issue to the Recruiting business. My measures will therefore be entirely directed to the prosecution of the Campaign in that way

There is nothing to be feared as to the ulterior operations of the Campaign. But all my apprehentions are awake for the present moment. To you Sir it is unnecessary to say that it requires a larger force to defend a line of frontier as extensive as ours is -- than to carry on offensive operations against an Enemy whose force is concentrated, and, who possess the power of attacking any point they please. I had much rather when joined by Genl Clay with the Kentucky troops advance upon Detroit -- than attempt to defend our long lines of weak posts. The point mentioned in the address to you from certain Citizens of this state is no doubt ~~##~~ very much exposed -- but it is not more so than others that are more important

I shall however attend to it as soon as possible The position which I occupy here certainly possesses more advantages than any other that could have been taken, and yet such is the adverse nature of this country, for Military operations, that had I a disposable force of some thousands, the enemy could turn my right by landing at Sandusky and operate against the Fo ts there with impunity -- It is now reaining as it has been for two days and the Swamps which run parillel to this River throughout its whole extent must in a few hours be absolutely impassable to Infantry. I shall cause the movements of the enemy to be narrowly watched. But in the event of their landing at lowe r sandusky that post cannot be saved. I will direct it in s ch an event to be evacuated -- the Stores there are not of much Consequence excepting about 500 Stand of Arms which I will cause to be removed as soon as the roads are practicable --

present it is impossible
at present ut us unoissubke

Before I left Cincinnati I was informed by a Letter from Genl Leftwich that the Pensylvania & Virginia Militia would remain here until other troops should arrive, upon no condition but that of receiving their arrears of pay before thier departure, I accordingly dispatched my Aid de Camp Lieut. Mukill with directions to assure them that thier wishes should be complied with, and I directed Mr Hunt Pay Master to send on Twenty thousand Dollars to this place to be delivered to Colo Huntingdon whom I was in hopes would be found here On the arrival of Mr Mukill the greater part of the Militia were gone about Two hundred Pensylvanians however volunteered their services to remain for fifteen days, and upon my arrival here they demanded a fulfillment of the promise. Colo. Huntingdon was not here, and from the Circumstance of a part of the Detachment being made up of small fragments of Companies, thier was great difficulty in adjusting thier accounts the money was however placed in the hands of Lt. Groginne P. Master, to the 19th Regt U. S. Infy. by whose exertions and knowledge of accounts the payment has been made -- in such a manner as to insure justice to the public and individuals altho' it will no doubt cause a little more trouble at the Genl. Pay office. Lt. Groginne will send to the pay Master Genl. one of the triplicate setts of Receipts Rolls which were taken with an explanation of the whole procedure -- You will I am persuaded Sir not regret any additional trouble which this affair may cause in your Department -- when you reflect upon the Necessity of most scrupulously fulfilling every engagement made between the agents of the Government & Militia placed in the Situation that these were to whom the promise of payment was made

I am convinced the Adjutant Genl. is mistaken in saying that no returns have been forwarded from this army -- From October until January every exertion was made to get the Militia Corps of which It was Composed to make Regular and formal Returns -- They were generally received but so incorrect that nothing could be made from them

In the last mentioned Month however a General Return, was completed and forwarded by Capt. Adams -- and since that another -- Capt Adams was left by me at Cincinnati at His request to make up his accounts as pay Master to the 4th Regt. He is now ordered on, and will resume his functions upon his arrival -- The orders contained in Your letter of the 4th shall be observed in future as far as is practicable -- But you Sir who have been accustomed to see Militia officers who could at least read and write, can have no Idea of the ignorance of many of those -- even of considerable Rank in the Western Country -- A field officer of the Ohio Troops, to whome I gave a day or two ago a form of his report as officer of the day acknowledge, to me that he was unable to fill it up -- From the Quarter Master Department more regularity and more oeconimy may be expected -- The faults in that Department have arrisen from two Sources -- Viz The Creation of two independant heads and the Necessity of employing a vast number of Subordinate agents whose Characters could not be acertained. From the latter cause notwithstanding the Abilities of Colo. Morison, and the high integrity of both him and Captain Piatt -- I do not believe that there has been more fraud and peculation practised upon the public, in this quarter since last fall than in any other army, that was ever found. With some few exceptions , it has I believe been principally confined to Pack Horse Masters & Waggon Masters

I had one of the latter confined at Chillocothe for selling public oxen & Stealing others. The officers who were to have composed the

Court to try him were obliged to come off to the Army and the fellow has since been released, by the civil authority, I gave you the name of a higher officer in a private Letter who is looked upon wity more than Süspicion — it is beleved that he has at least $10,000 of the public money in his possession. Could I ~~have~~ leave this to spend a short time in the interior where these enormities have been committed I would endeavor to bring some of these scoundrels to punishment. From the number of posts in which valuable public property is deposited there requires a very considerable number of Subordinate Qr. Masters -- All these posts (one only excepted) have Militia Carrisons, whose commanders seldom have the firmness & inclination to control thier men it is necessary that there should be in each of them a Quarter Master or agent. Young Men of Charector might be got for from Thirt y to Forty Dols. pr. Month. The Quarter Masters under the old law have been necessarily continued untill they can be replaced by the new Appointments. I have heard not a word from the 24th Regiment. Pursuing the plan laid down in your Letter of the 4th. I can see no advantages in the point of em arkation mentioned in a former letter -- The Miami Bay or sandusky would be infinitely preferable. The other place possesses no advantage which these do not afford they are nearer our deposits & the marching of the Troops from this direction to the other place would point out the intention to the enemy I will thank you to inform me whether any alteration will be made, in this respect as soon as convenient, as it will govern me in the orders to be given for the marchg. the 24th Regt. nothing I presume can be expected from me as to the provision of transports. In the proposed direction, open boats will not answer.

No person is mentioned in your Letter of the 4th for the Inspectors Department — I had always intended to recommend for it Lieut. Hukill my Aid De Camp — who is better qualified for it than any person I know of —

and I sincearly believe better than any other Plattoon officer in the army. I have the honor to enclose herewith an extract of a Letter from Govr. Shelby -- on the subject of the employment of Indian Auxiliaries, his sentimen s on the subject are precisely mine.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Yr. Ob Stv.

Willm. Henry Harrison

Honb

John Armstrong Esqr

Secy of War

[illegible] correspondence with The Sent Edwd. [illegible] from Missouri Terr. to the Congress [illegible] Lewis. --

St Louis April 21st. 18[illegible]

Sir,

[illegible] the communication from the war department [illegible] the Rangers may not have reached you, [illegible] liberty of addressing you on that subject. The [illegible] of war authorized Mr Jennings of Indiana, [illegible] of Illinois & myself to say that the ten companies of Rangers should be for the three Territories -- and three companies for this territory -- Each company to [illegible] one captain, -- three Lieutenants, one Ensign, [illegible] Sergeants, five corporals, and one hundred men .. The companies to choose their own officers -- and to have their commissions from the General Government -- [illegible] raised to report themselves to the Governor of this territory and to be in pay from the time their services are accepted by the Governor for one year.

The three companies thus to be raised are in addition to the company of Capt Boone now in service.

I have the honor to be &ca.

(signed) E. Hempstead

Frederick Bates Acting Govr.

Terry. of Missouri

Vincennes April 22 1813

Colo Paddock

Sir

Capt. Craven Paytons Company of Rangers having been accepted of as the first one offered -- and it being deemed Advisable that he should be Stationed upon your Frontier -- you will therefore please to Muster & Inspect the Company at Corydon -- Lieut. Lindsey will furnish you with a List of part of the Company who were raised at and about the Mudholes, and who were to remain there for the purpose of serving as my Auxiliary Guard from thence to Corydon, those men you will include in the Rolls.

I intend leaving here on Monday next for Jeffersonville Taking Corydon in my rout

I am Sir your Obedt

Jn Gibson

I do Certify that the foregoin is a true Coppy of the Original Orders from General Gibson to me. Joseph Paddock

Given under my hand this 2d Day of June 1813

Brownsville Pa. 22d. of April 1813

The Secretary of War

Dr. Sir.

Enclosed I reansmit you a letter addresse d to me by one of the Judges of the Genl. Court of the Territory of Indiana on the subject of the Rangers a uthorised to be raised within and for the protection of its frontier.

In consequence of the decision of the Department of the G overnment over which you preside, I made a publick declaration to the citizens of Indiana, that four additional companies of Rangers, were authorised to be raised by th Genl. Government within that Territory by the acdeptance of Volunteers. Under that declaration Col. Bigger, one of the best militia officers, raised a company and is refused upon a tender of their services with his own.

Why Genl. Gibson should so act, is to me a matter of surprize. I re rain from any further comment upon the Genls. conduct at least until I shall have the pleasure to see you in person --

The citizens of the Territory have sustained greater loses than any other portion of the United States frontiers, excep the little Territory of Michigan. Shall not the citizens of Indiana have as well the profit as the honor of defending themselves? After they have sustained damages essential, and after a portion of its citizens shall have rendered considerable service for considerations in no shape pecuniary, shall they be rejected for the services of those who have but a partial claim to the emoluments.

Let me request your attention to the affair. The Genls promises can have no important claims upon the Genl. Government for fulfillment. My declarations were made upon, and expressly according to your own assurances --

I am with great esteem your friend & Humble St.

Jonathan Jennings

[To Armstrong]

Franklinton April 24, 1813

Dr. Sir.

Since writing to you on the 19th instant, I have been called on by Genl. McArthur to have provisions in readiness to issue at the following places, Lebanon, Zenia, Urbana, Piqua, Troy, Dayton, Franklin, Hamilton Butler Ctv and Cincinnati. All those places I believe come with the arrangements you have already made for supplying rations. Fearing however that some of them may not be furnished I have taken the liberty of writing you on the subject, and to request of you the names of all the Towns on your line that are furnished under contracts made by you.

I am with much respect Your Obt Servt.

J. C. Bartlet

Field Comy Genl

John H. Piatt Esqr

D. C. Genl

St. Louis April 24. 1813

Dear Sir

From the minuteness with which you have obligingly communicated the details of the arrangement of the Secretary of war as to the three companies of Rangers to be raised for the defence of our frontier, I have taken the belief that it might be the duty of the Executive to take these informations the basis of preparation for the forming of those companies. I have thought that this must have been the intention of the Secretary of War as he permits that the men shall be raised in the territory that they may be the sooner ready to defend it.

If I have misapprehended you in this business, and misstaken the wishes and intentions of the war department, you will oblige me by stating your views of the subject more fully.

I have the honor to be &c.

Frederick Bates

Gen.

U. S. Hempstead. --

Agn. 27

Copy of a letter from C pt Horatio Stark --

Fort Madison April 24. 1813

Sir,

The regulations with the Sacs & Fox Indians entered into between them and Mr. Blondeau have not yet been complied with on their part, relative to taking a position below this Post -- And in addition to their failure, a small party who were at the Fort today, evidently discovered a disposition not entirely friendly. It so happened that [illeg.] the Hard Heart, an Ioway was here soliciting permission and aid to go to war against them. This circumstance was applied so as to intimidate the one and not discourage the other -- ~~###~~ But this state of things cannot last long. The Ioways deserve every assistance and I hope will receive it. It is a just war on their part, and I am induced to believe it unavoidable.

All the tribes of the lower Missouri are engaged and collected in great numbers opposite the river Platt. The government have now the opportunity of transporting a ration at a trifling expence, and I hope the best use will be made of the means now presented. Three hundred weight of powder and about Six hundred of lead would be sufficient. This plan was stated last fall, the propriety of which is now confirmed. So fully convinced of the necessity of the measure that I would recommend to some enterprizing individual to make

[illegible] of things cannot last long. The Ioways [illegible] [illegible] assistance and I hope will receive it. It is a just war on their part, and I am induced to believe it unavoidable.

All the tribes of the lower Missouri are engaged and collected in great numbers opposite the river Platt. The government have now the opportunity of transporting the nation at a trifling expence, and I hope the best use will be made of the means now presented. Three hundred weight of powder and about Six hundred of lead [illegible] be sufficient. This plan was stated last fall, [illegible] propriety of which is now coonfirmed. So fully [illegible] convinced of the necessity of the measure that I [illegible] recommend to some enterprizing individual to make [illegible] supplies, should no other means be efficient.

The Ioway Indian I beg leave to recommend in the strongest terms. His application for a large Medal which I took the liberty to support last fall, I wish to urge again in his behalf -- and further I wish to state that the Rifle Mr Bates gave him some time in November last was obtained from him by some person at the Salt [illegible] on the Missouri, in an improper manner through the agency of Louis Doriou

The Indians assert that Dickson is on the Rock River collecting forces. I have the honor to be &c. &c. &c.

(signed) Horatio Stark Capt

1st Regt. of Infy. Comg.

[illegible] executive

[illegible]ouri territory

No. 52

Head Quarters Camp Meigs

25th. April 1813

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th. Inst. The directions given by me to the Qr. Mr. on the St Marys last winter were to prepare a number of Boats of that kind which were calculated, as well for coasting the lake as for decending the Rivers. From the difficulty of procuring workman five only of that discription were built -- perouges & flats being substituted for them. Your Suggestion with regard to the dispositon of the Ohio Militia shall be attended to -- If the enemy do not commence offensive operations soon I shall be able to dismiss a considerable propo[r]tion of them & you may rely upon my doing it at the Moment at which I think thier services can be spared.

In your favor of the 4th Inst. you observe that my propo[r]tion of the Staff has been assigned to me -- but the names of none of them are given but those of Majors Adams & Bartlett. I must beg leave to observe, that in my opinion this army will require a more numerous Staff than any other because it will consist almost enclusively of raw Troops & inexperienced officers For this reason I have ventured to detain Majr. Hukill, until your further determination shall be known -- my having done so will not offend General Hampton. He is personally the friend of the Major who was some time in his family and has written to him that it is not his wish that he should abandon any Situation in this army for the one which would be offered him in his Staff, should he prefer the former

The following circumstances will shew the importance of Major Hukills Services to me at present. The labour on the defences of the Camp being pretty well gotten over a General Order was Issued for placing the whole of the Troops off duty on Drill for Several Hours each day. But amongst all the officers under my Command of every grade -- I am

persuaded there is not an individual -- Major Adams & Hukill excepted (& perhaps Lt Colo Gains of the 24th whom I do not know) who are capable of properly directing a Drill or Manoeuvering a Battalion. I should prefer Major Hukill to any other person as the Inspector of this Army

I have the honor to enclose herewith a rough sketch representing the Situation of the posts in this quarter, and a more correct View of the Islands in Lake Erie than any printed Map furnished. In the group called Bass Islands -- There is one of the finest Habours in the world. It is the Bay formed by an Indenture in Edwards Island and nearly shut up by a n other Island this [torn] as the Frenchman lately brought from the River Raisen inform me the British are about Fortifying. It is said to be eminantly calculated for defence. The Shore which commands the Harbrou being high & a rock

I have the honor to be with great respect sir Yr Hb Servt

Willm Henry Harrison

P.S. When I was appointed to the command of the N. W. army the Secretary of war informed me that the President would confirm any staff appointments that I might make which were allowed by Law -- amongst others I appointed John S Wells Esqr Divis J. Advocate he has performed the duties faithfully but his appointment has not yet been confirmed -- I shall be gratifyd by having it forwarded. The officers of the 17th & 19th Regt. U. S. Infy. are anxious to know whether their Regemental and lineal Rank has been determined. W·H H

Honb. John Armstrong Esq

Secty of War

45

St. Louis April 25th. 1813

Your favor of 22nd inst. has been just handed to me by Colo. McNair. From representations made to the Secretary of war of the probable danger of the frontiers early in the Spring & that Rangers raised in the several counties would afford the most prompt defence, the arrangement I have had the honor to communicate to you was made. The belief you have formed of the views of the Secretary of war in having the force raised in the Territory and that it should be commenced immediately is correct with the opinion expressed by Genl. Armstrong and I have no doubt, that the sooner the companies are in service, by the acceptance of the number stated in my former letter, the views of administration in raising that species of force, will be the most acceptably rendered.

I have the honor to be &ca.

(signed) G. Hempstead --

Benj. Pick Bates

Ter. Governor

Cleaveland Ohio 26th. Apl. 1813

Sir,

My businesshere has recd. a partial check -- owing to a failure on the part of one of the c.ntractors for the supply of plank -- other contracts, however, have been made; and the work now progresses with rapidity.

Respectfully, I am, Sir, Yr. Obt. Servt.

Th. J. Jessup

Major 19th. Infy.

The Honl. John Armstrong

Secre ary of War

Washington.

Great Crossing Scott County, K. April 27th. 1813

Sir,

I have already written you upon the Subject of the mounted Redgement, which you authorised me to raise.

In case the Ridgement should be called into service, which is much desired in case any vigorous campaign should be opened by the North Western army, some inconvenience may be experienced unless you fourthwith request the Governor of this state to Commission the officers. I had supposed you intended to make that request of him in my letter of authority; in which you say the Governor of this state will be requested to commission the Redgement, which is construed to mean -- that he will be requested by you so to do by letter

It certainly cannot injure the service to have the officers who have raised a Ridgement of effective men commissioned inasmuch as they hold themselves in readiness to march at the call of the Government— Indeed whether they are ever called or not into service it is due to the patriotism of the officers to be commissioned & the Governor only waits your letter to do it. If therefore the Redgement should not be called immediately, it is presumed that you will request it to be commissioned & altho I may not be here I will leave the names of the officers with the Governor. In case of an immediate call the request is indispensible.

With sentiment of esteem &c your friend—

Rh. M. Johnson

NB If the Redjt is already called for I will proceed to fin[?] for marching expecting your letter to the Governor will be in time —

R M J

[To Armstrong]

Apr 28

No. 53.

Head Quarters

Camp Meigs

26th Apl. 1813

The Columns of the Enemy are now in sight, an officer has just reconcitered them who thinks the amount to between Two and Three thousand. the Gunboats bearing thier artillery &c. &c. -- are about two miles from us at this moment & the Indians are in swarms through the woods on each side of the River. My men are in fine spirits and we shall soon put them upon a Retrograde march. I had a confidential person Mr. Oliver, with a few attendants upon fleet Horses to carry this to the settlements

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr Ob Serv

Willm Henry Harrison

Honb. John Armstrong Esq

Secy of War

[illegible] Council with Sac & Fox Indians at [illegible] --

[illegible] friends, your father has been waiting again [illegible] your words, this is his Council, he has sent [illegible], in which, he demands fifteen of your principal [illegible] to visit him below, and I am surprised you have not assembled at this place --

[illegible] by the Sacx & Foxes, It has been impossible [illegible] us, by the determination of the Foxes, who have [illegible] & prayed of us not to leave them behind, a runner has just arrived, who informs us that the Foxes have started from Prairie de Chein to come down, [illegible] that eight days past those people that have seperated [illegible] our nation have held a Council with Robt. Dixon [illegible] arrived at Rock river from Chicago on his way to [illegible] de Chein tendering them a wampum Collar, & [illegible] to them, you tell me that the Americans will [illegible] the Mississippi I tell you that is impossible [illegible], they are using their utmost to take [illegible] so as to deprive you of your wants, it is [illegible] reason your English father demands of you [illegible] from each Nation, as I see that you [illegible] of a hereafter come with me to Prairie de Chein, [illegible] will give you your wants, as for the Sac [illegible] they will [illegible] their error when it will [illegible] -- On the 23rd he sent his agents [illegible] Brisbois Dominique Perrin [illegible] Prairie de chein with the Sacs who

[illegible] you
[illegible] come with me to Prairie de Chein,
[illegible] to your wants, as for the Sac
[illegible] they will know their error when it will
[illegible] late -- On the 23rd he sent his agents
[illegible] Vieaux Drilbois Dominique Perrin & Frazer
[illegible] Prairie de Chein with 15 Sacs who
[illegible] from the others, they took along with
[illegible] kegs of Powder & three kegs of Liquor with
[illegible] assortment of one peice Strouds, which the Band of
[illegible] Sparrow a Chief amongst theSacs, though a
[illegible] by Birth, Kept in his Camp, except one
Key og Powder, which the agents intended for the
Chiefs Nomwit & Legor, in company with those
Agents came a Sioux, that was sent by the Sioux
Chief Lafeuille with two Wampum collars, two silver
[illegible] & one Medal, saying here I tender you
the present, sent to you by your English father, who
[illegible] you to go & join him at Detroit, & the rest
of your Nation to go and join the Northern Indians
[illegible] Prairie de Chein, though take with you your property --
Question of Nomwit principal war Chief of Sacs --
[illegible] your English father tell you in what manner,
[illegible] to support the red skins to make war against
[illegible] Americans, as for my part, I do not see in what
[illegible] we will be able to support the war, it is
for that reason, I request you to take back your
[illegible] except the powder, if you wish to leave those
articles, you understand my reasons, as my intention
[illegible] to, to live in peace, & go down to the River La Main
to make my Village hereafter --
On the 24th a runner (Sack) from Prairie de

[illegible] Powder, if you wish to leave those [illegible], you understand my reasons, as my intention [illegible] to live in peace, & go down to the River Le Moin [illegible] my Village hereafter --

On the 24th a runner (Sack) from Praerie de Chein arrived who [illegible] me that the Foxes had [illegible] from their Village to come down to the river Le Moin, and says that the bands of Sieux of the Chief, [illegible] manse on red wing had arrived at Praerie de Chein, who talked of coming down joined by another party of Sieux belonging to the French Crew, in all about forty lodges, to live with the Sacs & Foxes at River Le Moin# in peace with the Americans --

the 25th I sent a runner in the land to [illegible] the Chiefs of the Piancheka who had settled near river Le Moin, telling them to come down with the Sacs & Foxes to give account of themselves --

27th Nonwait arrived with his bands at the Le Moin river saying that they saw Major H. Stark at Fort Madison, who indoemd them, they would do very wrong to make their Village at theRiver Le Moin, which advice embarrassed them# very much, not knowing [illegible] to fix on a place for a permanent Village, I [illegible] to settle themselves at the place the [illegible] had lately selected for them, which was [illegible] little way up the river Le Moin

---

Council of the Blue Chief of the Sac Nation [illegible] father,

I belive I was not mistaken when I promised [illegible] that I would make my nation return at your command, they have not as yet all come but all the

[illegible], which was [illegible] the river [illegible]

[illegible] of the Blue Chief of the Sac Nation [illegible],

I believe I was not mistaken when I promised [illegible] would make my nation return at your [illegible] have not as yet all come but all the [illegible]cipals have come and the rest of the Foxes are [illegible] for their arrival, when they come, we shall [illegible] our Village in this River LeMoin; you will [illegible] find it not right because I do not go down now [illegible] request, you know that during my absence from [illegible] visiting my great American father, many of [illegible] have been debauched, it is therefore [illegible] stay to secure my Village, & to enable me to [illegible] My designs, I have been obliged to give away [illegible] worth, you know nothing of importance can [illegible]ined without expense, I hope therefore, that [illegible] not forget me after leting you know my [illegible] situation, likewise I hope you will fulfill [illegible] I have made to my nation. You know last [illegible] a thing happened, which was shamefull [illegible] soldiers after having seen & known him to [illegible] my nation, they took his arms from him, [illegible] him cross the Mississippi, shot & scalped him; [illegible] therefore I did not fear to take my medal & [illegible] on the next of the Brother of the Sac that had [illegible]lled, telling him that I was persuaded they [illegible] out one Medal with your own hands on his [illegible] likewise hope you will not forget to supply [illegible] wants as before, in some of your Forts so we [illegible] a little Powder to defend ourselves, seeing

[illegible] Chief

[illegible] in the nation & much [illegible]

[illegible], [illegible],

[illegible] Britch Cloth, Jasquassa

Swan -- Waubusa

Moiscosit -- a young men

Son of Wanitouquinoise

Michiquiquaic son in law to Blue Chief

The Foxes --

[illegible] Brother to former Chief White Skin

[illegible] (Commission sent by him)

Meteckque, Ctu Nace principal Chief Foxes

Cavetaquaone

Wagates -- osen- Black Tobacco, Warrior Chief who

Killed two Puatns to get revenge for the two

Americans Killed by the Puants at the lead mines--

[illegible] Fish Mechinanamas --

This is the list of our great men who go to hear your word, as for the threat that are made you, those are all the same, that is to say friendly towards you -- I can assure you nothing, but it is always mentioned the Northern Indians are to come dow, who threaten us, likewise you, but we are determined to defend ourselves -- I finish my Father in holding you fast by the hand and hope you will not forget me --

Blue or Willitawinna

a Chief of Sac Nation

[illegible] in River

[illegible] April 1813

General post Office

Apl. 30th. 1813.

Sir

I do myself the honor to enclose a letter from Wm. Arundell Esq. Pastmaster at Kaskaskias under date of March 27th.

From which it appears necessary to have the mail guarded by the military: as to this the powers of this office do not extend, I have considered it my duty to submit that subject with the letter to your consideration.

Your's most respectfully

Gidn Granger

The Honbl John Armstrong

Secty at War

Copy St. Louis April [1813]

Sir,

I learn from Mr. Bates that you were authorised by him in my absence to bring down 300 or 400 Osages Indians with a view of assigning them a position on our northern frontier, and to give assurances that they would be furnished with such articles as their situation might require, altho' no man can abhor more than I do the Barbarous practise of employing savages against civilized enemy, Yet I have been and still am of opinion to employ them against each other is not only Justifiable but good policy. But so far as I can Understand the policy of our Government from circumstances their Views are different, Were I however authorised to employ them, I should not assign them a position or positions upon the frontier, as constituting a part of our means for protection, Jealousies would soon arise, collusions take place between them and the settlers, and if there was no real danger, doubts would be entertained of their friendship and perhaps danger be apprehended from them by the people, You will therefore forbear to engage them in this service however as those people have received many injuries from the Indians of the Mississipi recently and formerly and have complained that they have been restrained by the advice of their great father from avenging them, You may say to them that they are now at liberty to avenge them; one reason why their great father has endeavoured to kept them at peace with each other is that both heretofore professed friendship for the Americans, and he as their common friend was desirous of entertaining harmony between them but many of the red people of the Mississipi have become hostile, it would be hard were he now to endeavour to preven the Osages from avenging Wrongs done them by those who are his enemies the hand of mediation ought under those circumstances to be

withdrawn: & I as the local agent withdraw it so far as it relates to the Conduct of the Osage towards the red people in hostility with the Americans, In order that the Osage may Know those that are unfriendly, I will name some of them, To wit, The Powtowatimies, Kickapoos, Winebagoes, folsowines, and the Prophet's party of the Wabash, There are other more distant which need not be named as they are no at war with the osages, There are some Indians West of the Mississippi not at war with the U. States and at variance with the Osage, Still persuing the policy of the Government, I must advice peace between them, for Instance the Ayowais and Sioux of the Moine Should any o the Sacs and Foxed make a village on the west side of the Mississippi I would recommend peace with them as none will be permitted to settle there but those that are friendly to the United States.

I am respectfully &c.

Benjn. Howard

Majr. Peter Chouteau
Indian Agent
Osage villages

4181